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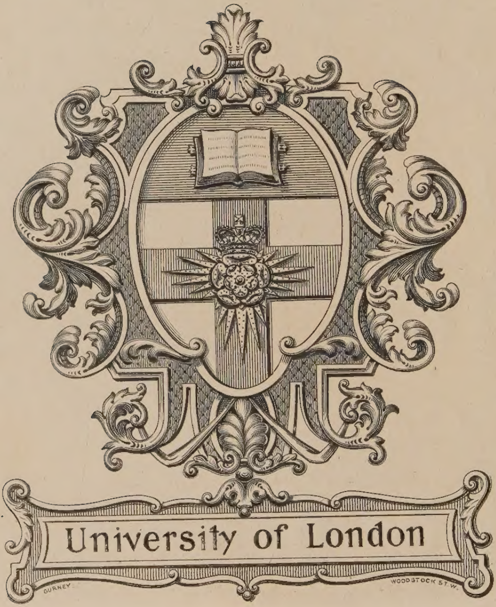

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(AUTHORISED EDITION),

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SIXTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

5 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CXLVIII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JUNE
TO THE SEVENTH DAY OF JULY, 1905.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

1905.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,
UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

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THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Midland Railway ; North-Eastern Railway ; Worcestershire County Council (Bridges) ; Bootle Corporation ; Caledonian Railway.

Also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4).

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with :—Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway ; London County Council (General Powers).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1

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Skegness Water Bill.—Read 2^a^, and committed 3

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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill.—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow .. 4

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.[; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 4

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow 4

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 4

PETITION.

LICENSED HOUSES.—Petition for earlier closing of; of persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. ..

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI., viz.

CHURCHES (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Return of extracts from Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, relating to the Church of Scotland, passed in the years 1690, 1693, and 1707, showing the repeals in the Acts of 1693 and 1707 proposed by the Churches (Scotland) Bill. (June 9.)

TRADE REPORTS.

I. (Annual Series)—

No. 3398. United States (Philadelphia).
No. 3399. Austria-Hungary. (June 9.)
No. 3400. Guatemala (Quezaltenango).
No. 3401. United States (New Orleans).
No. 3402. Germany (Grand Duchy of Baden).
No. 3403. Netherlands (Java). (June 14.)
No. 3404. Denmark (Faroe Islands). (June 15.)
No. 3405. Japan (North Formosa). (June 16.)
No. 3406. Western Pacific (Friendly Islands).
No. 3407. Corea. (June 17.)
No. 3408. Persia (the Persian Gulf).

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No. 3409. France (Lyons, St. Etienne and Grenoble). (June 20.)
No. 3410. Turkey (Palestine).
No. 3411. Spain (Galicia, Asturias, and Leon).
No. 3412. Sweden (Stockholm and the Eastern Coast of Sweden).
No. 3413. France (Dunkirk). (June 21.)
No. 3414. Spain (Cadiz).
No. 3415. Muskat. (June 23.)
No. 3416. Italy (Central Italy).
No. 3417. Austria-Hungary (Fiume). (June 24.)

II. Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest (with Appendix), 1904. (June 21.)

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.—Annual Report of the chief inspector of factories and workshops, for the year 1904. Part I. Reports. (June 14.)

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Report on manuscripts of the Earl of Egmont. Vol. I., Part II. (June 14.)

COLONIES (ANNUAL)—

No. 448. St. Helena (Report for 1904). (June 14.)

No. 449. Falkland Islands (Report for 1904). (June 21.)

COMMERCIAL, No. 3 (1905).—International Sugar Commission (Spring Session, 1905). Report of British delegate and correspondence (in continuation of "Commercial, No. 1 (1905)," [Cd. 2349]). (June 14.)

LONDON UNEMPLOYED FUND.—Preliminary statement (as on the 14th of April, 1905), prepared at the request of the President of the Local Government Board by the Central Executive Committee. (June 14.)

TREATY SERIES—

No. 16 (1905). Convention between the United Kingdom and Switzerland supplementing Article XVIII. of the Treaty of Extradition of 26th November, 1880; signed at London, 29th June, 1904. (June 15.)

No. 17 (1905). Industrial Property Convention. Accession of New Zealand to the additional Act of 14th December, 1900; and Accession of Ceylon to the Convention of 1883, as modified by the additional Act of 14th December, 1900. (June 24.)

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Thirty-second Annual Report by the Accountant for Scotland to the Scotch Education Department. (June 15.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION—

I. (Training College Regulations). Regulations for the training of teachers and for the examination of students in training colleges. (June 16.)

II. (Regulations for Evening Schools, etc.). Regulations for evening schools, technical institutions, and schools of art and art classes (from 1st August, 1905, to 31st July, 1906). (June 20.)

III. (Amending Order, No. 2). Order amending Final Order, No. 1130, made under Section 11 (8) of the Education Act, 1902.

IV. (Code for Public Elementary Schools (1905). Code of regulations for public elementary schools, with schedules, 1905. (June 22.)

Salvation Army Colonies.—Report on the Salvation Army Colonies in the United States and at Hadleigh, England, with scheme of National Land Settlement, by Commissioner H. Rider Haggard. (June 17.)

India (Army Administration).—Correspondence regarding the administration of the Army in India. (June 20.)

Navy (Hydrographer's Report).—Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1904, by the Hydrographer. (June 21.)

Navy Estimates, 1904–1905 (Programme of Shipbuilding, Reconstruction, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.). Statement showing the probable effect on the programme due to reappropriation of cash provision, etc. (June 21.)

Railway Accidents.—Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st December, 1904, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), together with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade, upon certain accidents which were inquired into. Part II. Reports on Accidents. (June 21.)

Income-Tax Committee.—Appendix to the Report of the Departmental Committee on Income-Tax; with minutes of evidence taken before the Committee. (June 21.)

Intermediate Education Board (Ireland).—Annual Report for the year 1904. (June 22.)

Mint.—Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, 1904. (June 23.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 5

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Fruit Culture.—Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to inquire into and report upon the fruit industry of Great Britain; with Minute appointing the Committee .. 8

Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1900.—Report of the inspector under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1900, for the year 1904 8

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TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3418. Portugal (North Portugal).
No. 3419. United States (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho).
No. 3420. Persia (Kermanshah).
No. 3421. China (Pakhoi).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 8

COUNTY COURTS.—County Court rules, 1905 9

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).—Return of all loans raised in India chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended the 31st March, 1905, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, etc. 9

FINES, ETC. (IRELAND).—Abstract of account of fines accounted for by the registrar of petty sessions clerks, for the year 1903 9

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1865.—Accounts of receipts and expenditure under the Act, for the year 1904 9

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—

Rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland :—

1. Determining the maximum number of centre superintendents to be appointed for the examinations of 1905.

2. Constituting an additional centre of examination at Newtownbarry for 1905.

3. Appointing the places at which the examinations for 1905 shall be held 9

POLLING DISTRICTS.

(County Borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne).—Order made by the county council of the county borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, dividing certain wards of the borough into polling districts 9

(Borough of Birkenhead).—Order made by the council of the borough of Birkenhead re-dividing the borough into polling districts 9

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.—Charter of the incorporation of the borough of Merthyr Tydfil, dated 6th June, 1905 9

FINANCE.—Finance accounts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the financial year ended 31st March, 1905 9

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.—List of all pensions granted during the year ended 31st March, 1905, and payable under the provisions of Section 9 (1) of the Civil List Act, 1901 9

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LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

I. Return showing, up to 31st March, 1904 :—

The amount of Consolidated Stock.

The application of the money raised by such stock.

The sums carried to the Consolidated Loans Fund.

The application of the Consolidated Loans Fund.

An estimate of the expenditure of the Council for all purposes, for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

II. Return showing, up to March 31st, 1905—

All moneys raised by the Metropolitan Board of Works and the Council since the passing of the Act for the purposes mentioned in the Act.

Particulars in relation to every parish, district, union, or place in respect whereof a loan has been obtained from the Metropolitan Board of Works or the Council since the passing of the Act 10

LOCAL LOANS FUND.—Accounts of receipts and payments by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, in respect of the capital and income of the Local Loans Fund, for the year ended March 31st, 1904 ; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon 10

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (PROCEEDINGS).—Report by the Board of Trade respecting the applications to and proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year .. 10

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.—Account of receipts and payments under the Act during the year ended March 31st, 1905 10

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853 TO 1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCES).—Licence granted by His Majesty to Elizabeth Marie Mantle, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, Hackney 10

Licence granted by His Majesty to Maria Yates, convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, Finchley.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 10

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statute made by the Governing Body of Balliol College, Oxford, on the 23rd of November, 1904, amending Statute IV. and Schedule B. of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 11th of March, 1905, to amend the Ordinance regulating the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowships.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 108.) 11

RICHMOND BRIDGE.—Accounts of the Commissioners of Richmond Bridge for the years ended December 31st, 1903, and December 31st, 1904. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 11

Merchant Shipping (Aliens) Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Muskerry 11

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

Lord Ellenborough 20
The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 24

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

The Earl of Meath .. .. [illegible]
The Duke of Rutland .. .. 2[illegible]
Lord Muskerry 28

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Motion," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 35 ; Not-Contents, 53.

Bill to be read 2ª this day six months.

FINANCE BILL—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

Lord Avebury 31
Lord Welby 37
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 43
Earl Spencer 48
The Earl of Wemyss 51

On Question, Bill read 2ª; Committee negatived and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

House adjourned at five minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills [Lords] (Standing Orders not Previously Inquired into Comlpied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Sandgate Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 51

Provisional Order Bills (No Standing Orders Applicable).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 52

Provisional Order Bills (Standing Orders Applicable Thereto Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 52

Provisional Order Bills [Lords] (Standing Orders Applicable Thereto Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 52

Morley Corporation Bill.—Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to .. 52

Darien Gold Mining Company Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 52

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.] 52

Leven's Patent Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 53

London County Council (Money) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed .. 53

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Rhymney Railway Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 53

South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railway Bill [LORDS].—To be read the third time To-morrow 53

Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill.—As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 53

Gamble's Divorce Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 53

Sheffield University Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Consideration, as amended, deferred till Thursday, 6th July (Evening Sitting) 53

STANDING ORDERS.—Ordered, That so much of Standing Order 91 as fixes Five as the quorum of the Select Committee on Standing Orders be read and suspended.

Ordered, That, for the remainder of the session, Three be the quorum of the Committee.—(*Mr. Halsey.*) 53

Millport Piers and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 53

London County Council (Tramways) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 53

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP E).—Sir HENRY AUBREY-FLETCHER reported from the Committee on Group E of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday, at Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 53

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Institution known as the Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind, to acquire and to hold lands for the purpose of that institution; and to make further provision with respect to the constitution of the committee of management and the management of the institution, the investment of the moneys of the institution; and for other purposes." [Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the powers of the Central Electric Supply Company, Limited; and for other purposes." [Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the County of London Electric Supply Company, Limited, to purchase lands and construct generating stations; and for other purposes." [County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords.]

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And, also, a Bill, intituled, " An Act to extend and amend the Humber Conservancy Acts, 1852 to 1899, and to confer further powers upon the Humber Conservancy Commissioners; and for other purposes." [Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords.] 54

Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [Lords]; Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords]; County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords]; Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 54

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Sugar and Sugared Goods (Import Duties) (Foreign Countries).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th May; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 207.] 54

Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902 (Proceedings).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Applications to and Proceedings of the Board of Trade under The Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 208.] 54

Fruit Culture (Departmental Committee).—Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to inquire into and report upon the Fruit Industry of Great Britain, with Copy of the Minute appointing the Committee [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 55

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on 11th March, 1905, amending the Ordinance regulating the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowships [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 209] 55

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of Balliol College, Oxford, on 23rd November, 1904, amending Statute IV. and Schedule B of the College Statutes [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 210.] .. 55

County Officers and Courts (Ireland) Act, 1877.—Account presented, of the Receipts and Payments under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 211.] 55

Inebriates Acts (Inspector's Report).—Copy presented, of Report of the Inspector, under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1900, for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 55

Polling Districts (Borough of Birkenhead).—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Birkenhead re-dividing the Borough into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 55

Penal Servitude Acts (Conditional Licence).—Copy presented, of Licence granted to Maria Yates, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, Finchley [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

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Penal Servitude Acts (Conditional Licence).—Copy presented, of Licence granted to Elizabeth Marie Mantle, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, Hackney [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3416 to 3421 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 56

Public Income and Expenditure.—Return ordered, " of Net Public Income and Net Public Expenditure under certain specified heads, as represented by Receipts into and Issues out of the Exchequer from 1890–1891 to 1904–5, inclusive (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 277, of Session 1904)."—(*Sir Henry Fowler*) 56

Casualties to Ships.—Return ordered, " of Casualties to Ships, showing the date; the name and class of the Ship damaged; the nature of the accident; the number of persons injured; the number of deaths (if any); the result of any inquiry that may have been held into the circumstances; and time in dockyard for repairs; during the year ending the 31st day of December, 1904 (in continuation of Parlamentary Paper, No. 116, of Session 1905).—(*Mr. Lough*) 56

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THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—Question, Colonel Stopford-Sackville (Northamptonshire, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 103

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 104

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Companies Acts (Amendment) (Dentists) Bill.—" To prohibit Joint Stock Companies from carrying on practice as dentists except by means of duly qualified persons," presented by Sir John Tuke; supported by Sir John Brunner, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Sir Michael Foster, and Sir Walter Foster; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 5th July, and to be printed. [Bill 250.] 105

Companies Acts (Amendment) (Physicians, etc.) Bill.—" To prohibit Joint Stock Companies from acting as Physicians, Surgeons, or medical practitioners," presented by Sir John Tuke; supported by Sir John Brunner, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Sir Michael Foster, and Sir Walter Foster; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 5th July, and to be printed. [Bill 251.] 106

SOUTH AFRICA (SALES AND REFUNDS).—

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Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the conduct of His Majesty's Government in connection with the supply and disposal of Stores and the Sales and Refunds to Contractors in South Africa at the end of the War, and their failure to inquire promptly into and deal with those transactions, deserve the censure of this House."—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)

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The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) .. 153
Mr. Robson (South Shields) 164
Sir Carne Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) 168

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

outh Africa (Sales and Refunds).—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [26th June], "That the conduct of His Majesty's Government in connection with the supply and disposal of Stores and the Sales and Refunds to Contractors in South Africa at the end of the War, and their failure to inquire promptly into and deal with those transactions, deserve the censure of this House."—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)

Question again proposed.

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Sir James Woodhouse (*Huddersfield*) 171
Mr. McKenna (*Monmouthshire, N.*) 185
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 188
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 200
Mr. Haviland Burke (*King's Co., Tullamore*) 207
Mr. Guest (*Plymouth*) 210
Mr. Churchill (*Oldham*) 211

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 329 ; Noes, 256. (Division List No. 209.)

Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 255 ; Noes, 329. (Division List No. 210.)

Public Roads (Ireland) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Drafting Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"To insert after line 22 the words—

'(2) Expenses under this section may be recovered if not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds in the County Court, and if exceeding that sum in the High Court.

'(3) An appeal may be taken from any order of a County Court under this section, and the enactments in the County Courts (Ireland) Acts, 1851 to 1898, relating to appeals in the case of ordinary civil bills shall apply accordingly.

'(4) Proceedings for the recovery of any expenses under this section shall be commenced within twelve months of the time at which the damage was done, or where the damage is in consequence of any particular building contract or work extending over a long period shall be commenced not later than six months after the completion of the contract or work.'

'(5) In the case of a road not being a main road any expenses recovered or composition paid under this section by or to a county council in respect thereof shall be credited in manner prescribed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to the rural district or rural districts in which is situated that part of the road in respect of which the expenses were recovered or the composition was paid, and in the case of a main road one-half of such expenses or composition shall be so credited to the rural or urban district, as the case may be.' "—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out Clause 2."—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"After Clause 1, to insert as a new clause, the words 'The proviso to Section 4 of the Locomotives Act, 1861, is hereby repealed so far as it applies to Ireland, and in lieu thereof it is enacted as follows: Provided that the regulation of weight herein mentioned shall not extend to any waggon carrying only one block, plate, cable, roll, vessel of stone or metal, or other single article being of greater weight than fourteen tons, but the fellies, tyres, or shoes of such wagon shall not be less than eight inches in breadth, and any damage arising from the user of any such wagon shall be deemed to be damage caused by excessive weight within the meaning of Section 1 of this Act.' "—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Question, "That this House do now adjourn," put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Dublin United Tramways.

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 225

Standing Orders Committee.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by the South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

Read, and agreed to 225

South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company Bill [H.L.].—Presented ; read 1^{a} ; and referred to the Examiners 225

Corbett Estate Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 225

Dublin United Tramways Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 225

Midland Railway Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed 225

North-Eastern Railway Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 225

Worcestershire County Council (Bridges) Bill ; Bootle Corporation Bill ; Caledonian Railway Bill.—Read 2^{a}, and committed 225

Swansea Corporation Bill.—Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 226

Millport Piers and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons 226

Darien Gold Mining Company Bill [H.L.] ; Leven's Patent Bill [H.L.] ; Gambles' Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 226

Rhymney Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 226

Morley Corporation Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 226

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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.—Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House 226

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next 226

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Read 3^{a} (according to order); an Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 226

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill.—Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed 226

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 226

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^{a} on Thursday next 226

Millport Piers and Burghs Extension Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 1^{a}; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2^{a} (*The Marquess of Linlithgow*), and reported from the Committee. (No. 110.) 227

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES, No. 18 (1905).—Treaty between Great Britain and Sweden and Norway for the Marriage of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret of Great Britain and Ireland with His Royal Highness Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Norway; signed at Stockholm, 20th May, 1905.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 227

Criminal Cases (Reservation of Points of Law) Bill) [H.L.].—Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment. The Report of the Amendments, made in Committee of the Whole House, to be received on Thursday next.. 227

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Bill [H.L.].—The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee, and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order. (No. 109) 227

Finance Bill.—Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed 227

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting 227

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Formby Township Bill [LORDS]; Littlehampton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Llandrindod Wells Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Matlock Bath Improvement Bill [Lords]; Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Acton District) Bill [Lords]; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed 228

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER). Third Reading deferred till Monday next 228

Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [LORDS]; Inverness Gas and Waetr Provisional Order Bill; Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill. Read a second time, and committed 228

North East London Railway Bill.—Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Joint Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons on London Underground Railways in Session 1901, and the Report of the said Joint Committee, and the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee of this House on the City and North East Suburban Electric Railway Bill in Session 1903, be referred to the Select Committee on the North East London Railway Bill.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) .. 228

Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill.—Second Reading deferred from To-morrow till Wednesday, 12th July 228

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

1. "That, in the case of the Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill.

Resolutions agreed to 228

Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [LORDS].—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 229

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company Bill [Lords].—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 229

Mansfield Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 229

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Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [LORDS]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 229

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Finance Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; London United Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill, without Amendment.

Highland Railway Bill, with an Amendment.

Great Northern Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to—Barry Railway Bill [Lords].

Amendments to—Municipal Corporations (Merthyr Tydfil Scheme Confirmation) Bill [Lords]; Clacton Improvement Bill [Lords]; Dearne Valley Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education, under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the London County Council to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill intituled, " An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under The Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bolsover Gas, Denbigh Water, Formby Gas, Hayling Water, and Staveley Gas." [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under The Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Dorking Water, Maidenhead Water, Tavistock Gas, Wey Valley Water, and Ystalyfera Gas." [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, and The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902, relating to Airdrie, Coatbridge, Cults and District." [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [Lords.]

Donovan's Divorce Bill [LORDS].—That they communicate Minutes of Evidence and proceedings taken upon the Second Reading of Donovan's Divorce Bill, as desired by this House, with a request that the same may be returned 229

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 1) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 252.] 230

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Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 253.] 230

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 254.] 231

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 255.] 231

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Treaty Series (No. 18, 1905).—Copy presented, of Treaty between Great Britain and Sweden and Norway, for the Marriage of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret of Great Britain and Ireland with His Royal Highness Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Norway. Signed at Stockholm, May 20th, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 231

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NEW BILLS.

Provisional Orders (Marriages) Bill.—" To enable Provisional Orders to be made for removing any invalidity or doubt attaching to Marriages by reason of some informality," presented by Mr. Cochrane; supported by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 256.] 268

Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for to-morrow 268

Aliens Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough) 270

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Clause be postponed."—(*Mr. Levy.*)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent St. Augustine's 270
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Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 165; Noes, 189. (Division List, No. 211.)

Sir Charles Dilke 275

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words, 'an immigrant,' and insert the words, 'a passenger.' "—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

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Question put, " That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 210. (Division List, No. 212.)

Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 287
Sir Robert Finlay 289
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*) 290
Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 291
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 291
Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 292
Mr. Akers-Douglas 292
Mr. Churchill (*Oldham*) 295
Mr. Peel (*Manchester, S.*) 296
Mr. Lough (*Islington. S.*) 297
Mr. Theodore Taylor (*Lancashire, Radcliffe*) 297
Mr. Marks (*Kent, Thanet*) 297
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham, Mid*) 297
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 298
Mr. Dobbie (*Ayr Burghs*) 300
Mr. Seely (*Lincoln*) 300

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 227 ; Noes, 196. (Division List, No. 213.)

Mr. Lough 305

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word ' not,' and insert the word ' only.' "—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' not ' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Akers-Douglas 307
Mr. Guest (*Plymouth*) 308
Mr. Austin Taylor 309
Mr. William Rutherford 309
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 310
Mr. Runciman 311
Mr. Akers-Douglas 311
Mr. George Whiteley (*Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) 313
Mr. Emmott (*Oldham*) 314
Mr. Martin (*Worcestershire, Droitwich*) 314
Mr. Akers-Douglas 315
Mr. Runciman 315
Mr. Renwick (*Newcastle-on-Tyne*) 316

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Sir Charles Dilke 317
Major Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) 317
Dr. Hutchinson (Sussex, Rye) 318
Mr. Lough 319
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice 320
Mr. Churchill 320

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 220 ; Noes, 171. (Division List, No. 214.)

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Rathmines and Rathgar Extension and Improvement Bill (BY ORDER).
[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Mooney (Dublin County, S.) 325
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) 327

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words, 'upon this day three months.' "— (*Mr. Mooney.*)

Question proposed, " That the word 'now' stand part of the Question.' "

Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.) 328
Mr. T. Harrington (Dublin Harbour) 330
Mr. Charles Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud) 332
The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) .. 333
Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green) 334

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 224 ; Noes, 109. (Division List, No. 215.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Bangor (County Down) Water and Improvement Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).
Read a second time and committed.

Mr. Wood (Down, E.) 373

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to insert a clause for the protection of James M. Thomson or other the owner for the time being of the property known as Martello, providing that nothing in the Act shall empower the council to interfere with any right of access from the said property to the seashore, and further providing that nothing in the Act shall authorise the council to erect any buildings on the slopes within a distance of fifty yards from any part of the said property, and that the said portion of the slopes shall not be used for any purposes other than a permanent garden or esplanade."—(*Mr. Wood.*)

Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 339
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 340

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 125 ; Noes, 223. (Division List, No. 216.)

Aliens Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) 345

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word 'landed,' and insert the words 'prevented from landing'—(*Mr. Trevelyan*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the word 'landed' stand part of the clause."

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 347
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 347
The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 348
Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.) 348
Mr. Peel (Manchester, S.) 349
Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden) 349
Mr. Churchill 350
Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) 351
Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) 351
Mr. Guest 352

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow.

Metropolitan Borough Councils Association Bill.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged 352

Bill withdrawn.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hythe Corporation Bill [Lords]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time .. 353

Malvern Water Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 353

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP I.)—Ordered, That Mr. Alfred Brooks do attend the Committee on Group I. of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at Eleven of the Clock 353

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.—Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table 353

CHURCH ORGANISATION AND DISCIPLINE BILL.—Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table 353

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL.—Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table 353

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Lewis, in favour; to lie upon the Table 353

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table 354

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 23rd June, 1905, declaring that Alfred William Cousins, Royal Laboratory, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act] to lie upon the Table .. 354

RAILWAYS CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES ACT, 1864.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on an Application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 213] 354

RAILWAY COMPANIES POWERS ACT, 1864.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on an Application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 214] 354

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3426 and 3427 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 354

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Postal Deliveries in Townships of Mullinavat, Kilmacow and Mooncoin.—Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 354

Payment for Sunday Duty on Irish Travelling P.O.'s.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Lord Stanley 355

Cheap Labour in Submarine Boat Construction.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 355

Treatment of British Subjects in the Congo Free State.—Question, Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent); Answer, Earl Percy 355

Swine Fever.—Question, Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 356

Increased Postal Facilities for the North of Ireland.—Questions, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Lord Stanley 356

Discharges of Workmen from Devonport Dockyard.—Questions, Mr. Kearley (Devonport) and Mr. Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 357

Repairs to Fountains in Kensington.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Lord Balcarres 358

Motor-Car Regulations in the Public Parks.—Questions, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire) and Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answers, Lord Balcarres 359

Motor-Car Drivers' Licences.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 359

Motor-Car Licences and Regulations.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 360

Suggested Tax on Motor-Cars.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 360

Fruit Preserving Experiments in Drogheda and Portadown.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 360

Waverney School, Ballymena.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 361

Decision as to Retention of Lance as Weapon for Lancers and Dragoons.—Question, Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 361

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Punishment of Chinese Coolies in South Africa.—Question, Sir Wilfrid Lawson (Cornwall. Camborne); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 362

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Cost of Transvaal Governor's and Lieutenant-Governor's Establishments.—Question, Mr. Whitley (Halifax); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton .. 364

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Alleged Cruelty to a Native at the Crœsus Gold Mine. Langlaate.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones; Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 365

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South African War Stores Inquiry—Officers Relieved from Duty.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 366

South African War Stores Inquiry—Alleged Destruction of Official Documents.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 366

Officers and Libel Actions.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 367

Colonel Morgan's Action.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 369

Natal Field Force Canteen Balances.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 369

General Lyttelton.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 369

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General Elles.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh; Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 374

Lord Curzon.—Questions, Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcady Burghs); Answers, Mr. Bro rick 373

Venezuela.—Question, Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 374

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MOTORS IN HYDE PARK.—Question, Mr. Scott-Montagu (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 376

COMPLAINTS AGAINST MOTOR CARS IN HYDE PARK.—Question, Mr. Scott-Montagu, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple) and Mr. Bright (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, Lord Balcarres 376

THE NEW MOTOR-CAR REGULATION FOR HYDE PARK.—Question, Mr. Scott-Montagu; Answer, Lord Balcarres 377

SUGGESTED MODIFICATION OF THE NEW MOTOR CAR REGULATION IN HYDE PARK.—Question, Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District); Answer, Lord Balcarres 377

ELECTRICAL LANDAULETTES IN HYDE PARK.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.), Answer, Lord Balcarres 377

AMALGAMATION OF OFFICES OF CROWN SOLICITORS FOR COUNTY ANTRIM AND SESSIONAL CROWN SOLICITOR FOR BELFAST.—Questions, Mr. Joseph Devlin and Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 378

IRISH LANGUAGE IN IRISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 378

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS IN IRISH.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 379

INSTRUCTIONS TO IRISH SCHOOL INSPECTORS.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answers, Mr. Walter Long 379

GIRLS' SCHOOLS IN IRELAND AND RULE 127 (*b*).—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 380

TOBACCO GROWING IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 380

COST OF BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT FOR IRISH TOBACCO GROWING EXPERIMENTS.—Question, Mr. William Abraham; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 381

BELFAST RIOT CHARGES.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 381

NEW RECORDER OF DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answers, Mr. MacVeagh and Mr. Joseph Devlin 382

CUSACK ESTATE, LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 382

LONGFORD VOTERS, JURORS AND VALUATION LISTS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 382

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DEAN GALBRAITH'S ESTATE, COUNTY TYRONE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 383

FLAX CULTIVATION IN ULSTER.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin, Answer, Mr. Walter Long 383

NORWAY AND SWEDEN—GREAT BRITAIN'S TREATY OBLIGATIONS.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 384

SCOTTISH EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire), Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 384

CHURCHES (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 384

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Augustine Roche, esquire, for the Borough of Cork .. 385

NEW BILL.

War Stores (Commission) Bill.—"To facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to hold an investigation respecting War Stores in South Africa," presented by Mr. Attorney-General; supported by Mr. Solicitor-General; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 257.] 385

MOTOR-CAR ACT (1903) AMENDMENT.

Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple) 385

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend The Motor-Car Act, 1903."

Mr. Scott-Montagu (Hampshire, New Forest) 386

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 222; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 217.)

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Soares. Mr. Allhusen, Mr. Cawley, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lyell, Mr. Nussey, Mr. Philipps, Mr. Remnant, Mr. Spear, and Mr. Wills.

Motor Car Act (1903) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Motor Car Act, 1903." Presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 258.]

Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow 390

Aliens Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment again proposed—

> " In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word ' landed,' and to insert the words ' prevented from landing.' "—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question again proposed, " That the word ' landed ' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Hunter Craig (Lanarkshire, Govan) 391
Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrew, W.) 391
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 391
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 393
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 393
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 395
Mr. Renwick (Newcastle-on-Tyne) 397
Mr. Bright (Shropshire, Oswestry) 398
Mr. David MacIver (Liverpool, Kirkdale) 400

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 215 ; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 218.)

Mr. Flynn (Cork Co., N.) 403

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words ' United Kingdom,' and insert the words ' Great Britain.' "—(*Mr. Flynn.*)

Question proposed, " That the words ' United Kingdom ' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Akers-Douglas 406
Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.) 406
Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.) 408
The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 410
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 410
Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University) 411
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 412
Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby) 412
Sir Robert Finlay 413
Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.) 414
Sir Robert Finlay 414
Mr. Bryce 415
Mr. Emmott (Oldham) 415
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 415
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 416
Mr. Higham 417
Mr. Austen Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) 418

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Lough 419

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words, 'from an immigrant ship.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Akers-Douglas 421

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 421

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out from the word 'ship' to the word 'given,' in line 9, and insert the words 'without the leave of an immigration officer appointed under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Akers-Douglas 423
Mr. Dalziel 423
Mr. Herbert Samuel (*Yorkshire, Cleveland*) 425
Mr. J. A. Pease (*Essex, Saffron Walden*) 425
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 425

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Akers-Douglas 426

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'ship' to insert the words 'or elsewhere if the immigrants are conditionally disembarked for the purpose.'"—(*Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Austin Taylor 426
Mr. W. Rutherford (*Liverpool, West Derby*) 427
Mr. Lough 428
Mr. Leif Jones 428
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 430
Sir Robert Finlay 430
Mr. Austin Taylor 431
Mr. Bryce 432
Mr. Akers-Douglas 432
Mr. Stuart Samuel 433
Mr. Charles McArthur 434
Mr. Lough 434
Mr. William Rutherford 435
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 436
Mr. Spear (*Devonshire, Tavistock*) 437

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Mr. Ritchie (Croydon) 437
Mr. Dalziel 438
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) 439
Sir Robert Finlay 440

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress, to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Aliens Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 10, after the word 'ship, to insert the words, 'or elsewhere if the immigrants are conditionally disembarked for the purpose.'"—(*Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Forde Ridley 441
Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) 442
Mr. Forde Ridley 442
Mr. Renwick (Newcastle-on-Tyne) 443
Mr. Austin Taylor 445
Mr. Markham 446
Sir Robert Finlay 447
Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) 448
Mr. Dalziel 448
Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) 449

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Emmott 449

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 11, after the word 'inspector,' to insert the words 'such inspection to be made as soon as practicable after the arrival of the ship in port.'"—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Akers-Douglas 450

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Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Austen Taylor 450

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, at end, to insert the words, 'leave to land shall not be withheld from any immigrant who, having taken his ticket in and embarked from the United Kingdom direct for some other country, and having been refused admission into that country, returns direct therefrom to a port in the United Kingdom.' "—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 451
Mr. Runciman 452
Mr. Peel 453
Mr. J. A. Pease 453
Mr. Lough 455
Mr. Dalziel 455
Mr. Claude Hay 455
Mr. Runciman 456
Mr. Herbert Samuel 456
Mr. Marks (Kent, Thanet) 456
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) 457
Mr. Kearley (Devonport) 458
Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.) 458

Question put and negatived.

Mr. Charles McArthur 458

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, after the word 'master,' to insert the words 'owner or agent.' "—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Atherley-Jones (Durham, N.W.) 459

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the first word 'board, and insert the word 'authority.' "—(*Mr. Atherley-Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'board' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough) 460
Major Seely 461
Mr. Dalziel 461
Mr. Runciman 462
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Mr. Bryce 465

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Sir Robert Finlay 463
Mr. Lough 464
Mr. Atherley-Jones 464
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice 464

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 187 ; Noes, 147. (Division List No. 219.)

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'board' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 189 ; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 220.)

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed. "That the House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 473
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 473
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 474
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 475
The Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury (Sir A. Acland Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) 476

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty-nine minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : THURSDAY, 29TH JUNE, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.] (ABERAVON TRAMWAYS ORDER).—A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee 477

Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway Bill; Bootle Corporation Bill.—Committee to meet on Tuesday next 477

Great Western Railway New (Railways) Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 477

Rathmines and Rathgar Extension and Improvement Bill.—Brought from the Commons ; read 1^{a} ; and referred to the Examiners 477

DOVER HARBOUR.—Moved, That the Order made on the 16th March last, "That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later than Thursday the 11th day of May next," be dispensed with, and that leave be given to the Dover Harbour Board to present a petition praying for leave to introduce a Bill "to alter the constitution of the Dover Harbour Board, and for other purposes ;" agreed to ; petition, together with a copy of the proposed Bill annexed thereto, read, and referred to the Examiners 477

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª to-morrow 477

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 277

PETITIONS.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.]—Petition against; of Christian Sabbath keepers; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Petitions in favour of; of City Glasgow; Presbytery of Glasgow (2); Wood Green Presbyterian Christian Endeavour Society; Glasgow Traders. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 478

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RADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3422. Portugal (Biera).
No. 3423. Colombia (Barranquilla).
No. 3424. Russia (St. Petersburg).
No. 3425. Norway.
No. 3426. Morocco (Tangier).
No. 3427. Italy (Brindisi and Province of Leece) 478

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.—Report of the principal chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1905; with appendices.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 478

LUNACY.—Fifty-ninth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy 478

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.—Account showing the receipt and expenditure of naval prize, bounty, salvage, and other moneys between 1st April, 1904, and 31st March, 1905 479

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Treasury Minute, dated 23rd June, 1905, declaring that Alfred William Cousins, Royal Laboratory, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department 479

RAILWAYS CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES ACT, 1864.—Report by the Board of Trade on an application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto 479

AILWAY COMPANIES' POWERS ACT, 1864.—Report by the Board of Trade on an application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto 479

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SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.— (Post Office Savings Banks Fund), —Account for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

(Savings Banks Fund) (Friendly Societies Fund).—Accounts for the year ended 20th November, 1904 479

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.—Accounts of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st, December 1904; together with a statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on 31st December, 1904, and the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those liabilities at that date 479

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.—Account of the receipt and expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-Up Act, from 1st January to 31st December, 1904.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 480

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—University Court Ordinance No. XI. (Edinburgh, No. 4).—Institution of degrees in veterinary medicine and surgery, and relative regulations.

University Court Ordinance No. XII. (Edinburgh, No. 5).—Inclusion of geography among the subjects qualifying for graduation in arts.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 111). .. 481

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Order for the consideration of Standing Order No. XXXIX. in order to its being suspended for this day's sitting, read, and discharged 481

Public Meetings (Facilities) Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee, read.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."

Lord Burghclere 481
The Lord President of the Council and President of the Board of Education (The Marquess of Londonderry) 481
Earl Spencer 485
The Marquess of Ripon 487
The Earl of Rosebery 489
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 489

Moved, "That the debate be adjourned."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

Lord Burghclere 491

On Question, resolved in the negative.

Original Motion agreed to.

(House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

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Clause 1.

The Marquess of Bristol 492

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out from the word 'Act' to the second word 'the' in line 7."—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

Lord Burghclere 492

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Lord Burghclere 493

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 7, after the second word 'the' to insert the words 'parochial, municipal or Parliamentary,' and to leave out the words 'and inhabitants.'"—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

The Marquess of Londonderry 493
Earl Carrington 493
Lord Heneage 494

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words 'free of charge.'"—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

Lord Heneage 494
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh 494
Lord Burghclere 495
Lord Zouche of Haryngworth 496
The Marquess of Ripon 496

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," their Lordships divided. Contents, 23; Not contents, 45.

The Marquess of Bristol 497

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out from the word 'by' to the word 'any' in line 14."—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

Lord Burghclere 497
Lord Stanley of Alderley 497

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Lord Heneage 498

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out the words 'any of their agents,' and insert the words 'the responsible and duly appointed election agent of such candidate.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

Amendment agreed to.

The Marquess of Bristol 498

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word 'given' to insert the words 'and who, if required to do so, shall pay such accustomed charges as are payable by other persons using the rooms in the school.'"—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

Lord Burghclere 499
Lord Stanley of Alderley 499
Lord Heneage 500

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 500

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word 'held' to insert the words 'on Sundays, nor on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas Day, nor.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Amendment agreed to.

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 500

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'the' to insert the words 'religious or.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'school' to insert the words 'or with such other lawful use of the building as has under proper authority been customary, or if the use of the schoolrooms on the said day and at the said time has previously to the receipt of the notice of the meeting been granted for some other purpose.'"—(*The Lor Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 2 :

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh 502
Lord Heneage 502

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out the word 'and,' and insert the words 'provided that nothing contained in this Act shall prevent any school managers from making a fixed charge for the reasonable expenses incurred by them in connection with the necessary preparation of the room or rooms for the purposes of any meeting, including coals, lighting, and cleaning; and provided also.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, to leave out paragraph (*b*) and to insert the following new paragraph :

'(*b*) That (except during such times as an election is actually in progress) the right to use such rooms shall not be exercised by or on behalf of any particular candidate more than once in reference to the same candidature.'"—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

Lord Burgclere 502

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved.

'In Clause 2, page 2, line 14, to leave out the words 'two occasions,' and insert the words 'one occasion.'"—(*Lord Burgclere.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 503

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 14, after the word 'year,' to insert the words

'(*c*) That a day be appointed in each year on or before which the local education authority shall publish a schedule showing what school rooms within such district are liable during the ensuing twelve months to be used for public meetings by virtue of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Lord Burgclere 503
Lord Stanley of Alderley 504
Lord Herries 504
Lord Heneage 505
Earl Spencer 505

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3:

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 17, to leave out the words 'Board of Education,' and insert the words 'local education authority for the district, provided always that no room or building registered for divine worship, nor any room connected with or attached to any place licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be deemed a suitable room for the purposes of this Act.' "—(*Lord Burgclere.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Lord Monkswell 506
Lord Burgclere 506

Clause 4 agreed to. Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. (No. 112.)

Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland) Bill. [THIRD READING.]

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Lord Avebury.*)

The Earl of Wemyss 506

On Question, Bill read 3a, and passed.

Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill [H.L.].

Order for the Day read for the House going into Committee

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."—(*Lord Avebury.*)

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 507
Lord Avebury 511
The Earl of Wemyss 514

Amendment moved—

> "To leave out the word 'now,' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day three months.' "—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

The Lord Bishop of London 515
The Duke of Northumberland 516
Earl Spencer 518
Lord Avebury 519

On Question, "Whether the word proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Motion," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 14; Not-Contents, 35.

House to be in Committee this day three months.

Page

Criminal Cases (Reservation of Points of Law) Bill [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to order); and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow 521

House adjourned at a quarter past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 29TH JUNE, 1905

The House met at Two of the Clock.

New Writ.—New Writ for the County Down (West Down Division) in the room of Captain Arthur Hill (Chiltern Hundreds).—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*) 521

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow 522

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow 522

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow 522

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 16) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 523

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 523

Tees Valley Water Board Bill [Lords]; Hastings Tramways Bill [Lords]; Southend and Colchester Light Railways Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments. Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 523

Weaver Navigation Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill read the third time 523

Barrymore Estate Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill to be read the third time 523

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University College, London (Transfer) Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.
Bill to be read the third time 523

Nottingham Corporation Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 523

Whitby Urban District Council Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 523

Message from the Lords.

That they have agreed to—Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill, without Amendment.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill, with an Amendment.

Swansea Corporation Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to Rhymney Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment 523

PETITION.

Local Authorities (Taxation and Purchase of Land) Bill.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table 524

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Government Laboratory.—Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended March 31st, 1905, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 524

Post Office Savings Banks.—Accounts presented, of all Deposits received and paid during the year ended December 31st, 1904, together with a Statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to Depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on December 31st, 1904, and the nature and amount of the Securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those Liabilities at that date [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 215.] 524

Savings Banks and Friendly Societies.—Accounts presented, showing the Interest accrued in respect of the Securities standing in the names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund for the year ended December 31st, 1904, and of the Fund for the Banks for Savings and the Fund for Friendly Societies for the year ended November 20th, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 216.] 524

Naval Prize Money.—Account presented, showing the Receipt and Expenditure of Naval Prize, Bounty, Salvage, and other Moneys between April 1st, 1904, and March 31st, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 217.] 525

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MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.—Account presented, of the Receipt and Expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act from January 1st to December 31st, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 525

DEER FORESTS (HIGHLAND CROFTING COUNTIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered February 28th; *Mr. Weir*]; to lie upon the Table 525

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).—Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XI. (Edinburgh, No. 4) (Institution of Degrees in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, and relative Regulations) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 218.] 525

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).—Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XII. (Edinburgh, No. 5) (Inclusion of Geography among the subjects qualifying for Graduation in Arts) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 219.] 525

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Lunacy.—Copy of Fifty-ninth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 220.] 525

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—Return ordered, "relative to the working of the Wireless Telegraph Act for the first three months of the year from January 1st to March 31st, 1905, viz.:—

(1) The number of messages, under the terms of the arrangement with the Marconi Company, handed by the general public to the Post Office for transmission to ships at sea;

(2) The number of these messages that failed to be delivered, showing for how many the senders applied for refund of the charges and the number (if any) for which the refund was refused, with the reasons for such refusal;

(3) The number of messages received from ships at sea and delivered by the Post Office to the general public;

(4) The amount of cash received during the three months by the Post Office for such inward and outward messages, and the proportion due to the Post Office and the Marconi Company;

(5) The cost incurred during the same period by the Post Office in instructing the Postal Telegraph Offices throughout the country in connection with the Marconi service.

Generally, in regard to the Wireless Telegraph Act, the number of licences to use wireless telegraphic apparatus applied for, with the name and nationality of the applicant, the name of the system, the position of working and radius of action, and the reasons for refusal (if any) of the licence or licences."—(*Captain Norton.*) 525

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

WHITE AND COLOURED LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 526

COOTEHILL UNION FEVER HOSPITAL—DEATH OF A PATIENT AFTER AN OPERATION.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 527

H.M.S. "EXCELLENT"—CASE OF STOKER PARNELL.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 527

THREATS TO ASSASSINATE SCOTTISH MEMBERS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 528

SUGGESTED RAILWAY STATION FOR KILCONNELL.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 258

DUNLOP PNEUMATIC TYRE COMPANY.—Question, Mr. McKean (Monaghan, S.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law .. ..

MOHOROUGH SCHOOL TEACHER'S SALARY.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 529

LONGFORD MILITARY MANŒUVRES—DAMAGE TO CROPS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bromley Davenport 530

CANNING'S STATUE.—Question, Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea); Answer, Lord Balcarres 530

HYDE PARK MOTOR-CAR REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire); Answer, Lord Balcarres 531

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 531

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 532

LEARNERS IN THE DUBLIN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Lord Stanley 532

THE POST OFFICE—LORD STANLEY'S REVISION—OVERSEERS AND RECLASSIFICATION OF OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 533

TOWN SUB-POSTMASTERS' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, Lord Stanley 533

FACTORY INSPECTION IN THE POTTERIES—MISS MARTINDALE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Akers-Douglas 533

ALIEN IMMIGRATION RETURN.—Question, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 534

INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 534

NUMBER OF EUROPEANS AND NATIVES EMPLOYED IN INDIAN WAR MATERIAL FACTORIES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 535

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT—"IMPERATOR *v.* ROLT."—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 535

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INDIAN LABOUR FOR THE SOUDAN.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 535

PROMOTION IN THE BELFAST POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 535

FORTHILL BURIAL GROUND, GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 536

CONSTABLE LYNCH, ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 536

IRISH LAND COMMISSION RULES.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 537

WAR STORES SCANDAL—COLONEL MORGAN'S PROMOTION.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 537

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KEYHAM DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. Charles Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Arthur Lee, Hampshire, Fareham) 539

THE WAR STORES SCANDAL—GENERAL LYTTELTON'S TELEGRAMS.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster) 539

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THE SALES OF SURPLUS STORES IN SOUTH AFRICA—DETAILS WANTED.—Questions, Mr. MacKenna (Monmouthshire, N.), Major Seely (Isle of Wight), Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland), and Mr. Whitley (Halifax); Answers, Mr. Bromley Davenport 541

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LORD MILNER AND THE WAR STORES.—Question, Mr. Labouchere; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 545

INDIA—LORD CURZON AND THE MILITARY COMMAND.—Questions, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India, (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 545

ODESSA DISTURBANCES.—Questions, Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick), Mr. Gibson Bowles, and Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.).. 545

MOTOR-CAR SPEED LIMIT.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas (Kent, St. Augustine's) 546

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MONTGOMERY NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS.—Question, Lieutenant Colonel Pryce-Jones; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, (Sir William Anson) Oxford University 547

BIG BEN.—Questions, Mr. J. F. Hope (Sheffield, Brightside); Answers, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 548

LEMREWAY (STORNOWAY) SCHOOLMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord-Advocate (Mr. Scott-Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 548

MISSING BELFAST CHILDREN.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.), Sir Ernest Fowler (Bradford, W.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 549

Public Trustee and Executor Bill.—Question, Mr. Charles Allen; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 550

ELECTRIC CARRIAGES IN HYDE PARK.—Question, Mr. Scott-Montague (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 550

Education (Scotland) Bill.—Questions, Mr. Charles Douglas (Lanarkshire, Mid.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 551

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.—Questions, Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 551

SUPPLY [12TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1905-6.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,768,300, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the expenses of the

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Personnel for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 552
The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge*) .. 560
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 567
Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 570
Mr. Kearley (*Devonport*) 573
Mr. Reginald Lucas (*Portsmouth*) 576
Mr. Phillips (*Pembrokeshire*) 579
Mr. Duke (*Plymouth*) 580
Mr. Buchanan (*Perthshire, E.*) 582
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 586
Sir John Leng (*Dundee*) 588
Mr. Pretyman 589
Sir Elliott Lees (*Birkenhead*) 590

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Supply [12th Allotted Day].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.W., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Navy Estimates, 1905–6.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,768,300, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the *Personnel* for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Sir Elliott Lees 598
Mr. Benn (*Devonport*) 600
Mr, Spear (*Devonshire, Tavistock*) 603
Mr. Arthur Henderson (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) 605
Sir Walter Plummer (*Newcastle-on-Tyne*) 607
Mr. Runciman (*Dewsbury*) 609
Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 612
Mr. Pretyman 614
Mr. Power (*Waterford, E.*) 617
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 617

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,768,200, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Mr. Pretyman 6

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 70 ; Noes, 116. (Division List No. 221.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £4,816,900, Shipbuiding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.—*Materiél.*
3. £7,827,800, Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.—Contract Work.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,256,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Victualling and Clothing for the Navy, including the cost of Victualling Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1906."

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee also report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

UPPLY. [22ND JUNE, AFTERNOON SITTING.]

Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1905–6. CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £10,633, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1906, for the Salaries and Expenses of the office of His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Office, Expenses under The Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1900, and Expenses under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, including a Grant in Aid of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 622
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 622
Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) 623
Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury) 623
Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle) 624
Mr. A. J. Balfour 624

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*),—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at five minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE, 1905

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:

1. Finance.
2. Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland).
3. Metropolitan Police Provisional Order.
4. Alexander Scott's Hospital Order Confirmation.
5. Grangemouth Waterworks and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation.
6. Arbroath Corporation Water Order Confirmation.
7. Dundee Water Order Confirmation.
8. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).
9. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).
10. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4).
11. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).
12. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6).
13. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).
14. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
15. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15).
16. Local Government Provisional Order (Gas).
17. Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law).
18. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1).
19. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2).
20. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 3).
21. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1).
22. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).
23. Municipal Corporations (Merthyr Tydfil Scheme Confirmation).
24. Walker and Wallsend Union Gas.
25. Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment).
26. Cordoba and Rosario Railway.
27. Entre Rios Railways.
28. Marylebone Chapels.
29. West Cumberland Electric Tramways (Extension of Time).
30. Holy Trinity, Portsea.
31. Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water.
32. Commercial Union Assurance.
33. Mortgage Insurance Corporation.
34. Truro Water.
35. Hastings Harbour.
36. Weybridge and Walton-upon-Thames Electric Supply.
37. Chelsea Electricity Supply.

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38. Epping Gas.
39. South Suburban Gas.
40. Nottingham and Retford Railway.
41. Leeds and Liverpool Canal.
42. Metropolitan District Railway.
43. Orphan Working School and Alexandra Orphanage.
44. East Cowes Gas.
45. Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment).
46. Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads.
47. Tralee Urban District Council.
48. Clay Cross Railway (Abandonment).
49. Great Berkhampstead Gas.
50. Mexborough and Swinton Tramways (Extension of Time).
51. Wrexham Gas.
52. Dublin Corporation (Superannuation).
53. South Oxfordshire Water and Gas.
54. Clyde Navigation.
55. Great Eastern Railway.
56. Loughborough Corporation.
57. Norwich Union Life Insurance Society.
58. Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water.
59. South Metropolitan Gas.
60. Ilfracombe Harbour and Improvement.
61. Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
62. Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock.
63. Otley Improvement.
64. Accrington Corporation.
65. Aylesbury Gas.
66. Croydon Gas.
67. Aberdare Urban District Council
68. Colne Corporation.
69. North Sussex Gas.
70. South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company.
71. London United Tramways (Extension of Time).
72. Alexandra Park and Palace.
73. Metropolitan Railway.
74. Barry Railway.
75. Clacton Improvement.
76. Dearne Valley Railway.
77. Croydon Corporation.
78. Stockport Corporation.
79. Birmingham Corporation.
80. Brentwood Gas.

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81. Darien Gold Mining Company.
82. Leven's Patent.
83. Rhymney Railway.
84. Morley Corporation.
85. McConnell's Divorce.
86. Lautour's Divorce.
87. Malone's Divorce (Validation).
88. Gamble's Divorce 625

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: North British Railway (General Powers); Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power; Great Northern Railway (Ireland); London County Council (Money); Metropolitan Electric Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 627

London County Council (General Powers) Bill. A petition of Messrs. Turner and Company, of 34, High Holborn, London, Parliamentary Agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Electrical Contractors' Association and others, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 93 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table, and Standing Order No. 93 to be considered on Monday next in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition 628

Standing Orders Committee. Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed. Read and agreed to 628

London and North-Western Railway Bill. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 5th and 6th instant discharged, and Bill committed 628

Corbett Estate Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 628

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 628

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.—Forty-seventh Report of the Board of Superintendents of Dublin Hospitals, with appendices, for the year 1904–1905 .. ..

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND) 1904. Part II. Civil Statistics.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 629

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.—Eighty-third Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, dated 29th June, 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 629

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SHIPPING LAW.

Lord Muskerry 629

Moved to resolve, " That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that, in interests of British shipping, His Majesty's Government should ensure that this country should be represented at the International Conference on Shipping Law about to be held in Belgium to consider the draft codes relating to collisions at sea and salvage."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

Lord Alverstone 633
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 634

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

HORSE DISEASE IN IRELAND.

The Earl of Mayo 635
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Donoughmore*) .. 636

CRIMINAL CASES (RESERVATION OF POINTS OF LAW) BILL [H.L.]. [THIRD READING]. Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, " That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Earl Russell 638
The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 639
Lord Alverstone 640
The Lord Chancellor 641

Amendment moved—

" In Clause 6, page 3, line 4, to insert the following sub-sections: (3) The provisions of this Act relating to legal aid on the hearing of a case stated shall not apply to Ireland. (4) Rules of Court made under Section 61 of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (IRELAND), 1877, may regulate generally the practice and procedure under this Act in Ireland.' "—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 7, page 3, line 6, to leave out from the word 'may' to the word 'be' in line 8."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at a quarter past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—

Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [Lords].

Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords].

County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords].

Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 641

Great Northern Railway Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 642

Highland Railway Bill.—Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to .. 642

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 642

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to 642

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill.—Read the third time and passed .. 642

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next. 642

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP L)—Ordered, That the said William Beldam do attend the Committee on Group L of Private Bills upon Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock 642

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Great Western Railway (New Railways) Bill, with Amendments 643

PETITIONS.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table 643

LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF CLOSING).—Petition from Tintwistle, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 643

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table 643

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS).—Petition from Battersea, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 643

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.—Copy presented, of Eighty-third Report of the Commissioners, dated 29th June, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 221.] 643

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.—Copy presented of Forty-seventh Report of the Board of Superintendence, with Appendices, for the year 1904–5 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 643

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1904. Part II. Civil Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. 663

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

SCOTCH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD'S APPRENTICING SCHEME FOR BOYS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson .. 643

DISEASE OF BEECH TREES.—Question, Mr. Allhusen (Hackney, Central); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 644

ERECTION OF FLIGHT OF WOODEN STEPS IN FRONT OF ADMIRALTY BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Allhusen; Answer, Lord Balcarres 644

DISTURBANCES AT ODESSA—PROTECTION OF BRITISH LIVES AND PROPERTY.—Question, Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Earl Percy 645

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE FERMOY, MALLOW, AND MICHELSTOWN RURAL DISTRICTS.—Question, Mr. Wm. Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 645

June 30.] Page

Shipowners' Negligence (Remedies) Bill.—Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 646

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 6, after the word 'injuries' to insert the words 'including fatal injuries.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Harry Samuel (*Tower Hamlets, Limehouse*) 647
Mr. Chas. McArthur (*Liverpool, Exchange*) 647
The Attorney-General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 648

Questions put, and agreed to.

Sir Albert Rollit 648

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 10, after the word 'thereof' to insert the words 'or of any defect in the ship or its apparel or equipment.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."
Sir Harry Samuel 648

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Luke White (*Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose*) 648

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 12, to leave out from the word 'thereof' to end of clause, and insert the words 'the person or persons entitled to recover such damages shall in England have the like remedies by warrant for arrest of the ship in the Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice, or in any County Court having Admiralty jurisdiction, as if the claim for damages were a claim for wages, and such remedies shall be subject to such provisions as to bail, entering a caveat, and otherwise as are applicable to proceedings in rem for recovery of wages, and shall in Ireland have the like remedies under the Court of Admiralty (Ireland) Act, 1867, and the Court of Admiralty (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1876, and otherwise, and subject to such provisions as aforesaid as if the claim for damages were a claim for wages.'"—(*Mr. Luke White.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'consignee,' in line 19, stand part of the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay 649
Mr. Brynmor Jones (*Swansea Districts*) 650
Sir Albert Rollit 650

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 19, after the word 'consignee' to insert the words 'or agent.' "—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Charles McArthur 651

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, after line 25, to insert the words '(2) The words "person applying" in this section shall include an employer who has paid compensation or against whom proceedings for compensation have been taken under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, or any Act amending the same, and who alleges that he is entitled to be indemnified under such Act or Acts by the owner of the ship.' "—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 652

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 653

nendment proposed to the Bill.

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 4, after Sub-section (2), to insert the words '(3) In the event of the owner, master, or consignee of a detained ship not making satisfaction in respect of the injuries, or within a reasonable time giving security as aforesaid, His Majesty's Courts shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any legal proceeding that may be instituted in respect of the injuries and to give judgment against such owner, master, or consignee as if he had been served with legal process, and the ship so detained shall be made answerable for the claim and for the satisfaction of any judgment obtained thereon.' "—(*Mr. Ausitn Taylor.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 654

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 8, to leave out the words 'expression,' 'harbour,' 'has,' and insert the words 'expressions' 'port' and 'harbour' have."—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

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Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir Robert Finlay 654

Question put and negatived.

Words inserted.

Sir Albert Rollit 655

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 98, at the end, to add the words 'And for the purposes of this Act, if the principal place of business of a body corporate shall be in the United Kingdom, the owner shall be deemed to reside therein.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Sir Robert Finlay 655

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 9, at the end, to add the words—'And if the owner of a ship is a corporation it shall for the purpose of this Act be deemed to reside in the United Kingdom if it has an office in the United Kingdom at which service of a writ can be effected.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Sir Robert Finlay 656

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, to add as a new sub-section the words, 'Where an employer has paid compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, to a workman who would have been entitled to the remedy given by this section if he proceeded against the owners of the ship for damages instead of against his employer for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, and the employer claims to be entitled to be indemnified by the owner of the ship under Section 6 of the said Act, the employer for the purpose of enforcing that indemnity shall have the same remedy under this section as the workman would have had to enforce his claim for damages.'"—(*The Attorney-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

Public Trustee and Executor Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee) considered.

Mr. Harmood Banner (*Liverpool, Everton*) 657

A clause (Employment of solicitors and banks and accountants).

> "In page 4, after Clause 10, to insert the following clauses:—
> 'Where a testator, settler, or other creator of any trust directs or authorises the employment of any particular solicitor or firm of solicitors or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, or where either the co-trustee of the public trustee, or the persons appearing to the public trustee to be for the time being entitled to the income of the trust, or if they are infants, their guardians, require the employment of any particular solicitor, or firm of solicitors, or bank or accountant, or firm of accountants, that solicitor, or firm of solicitors, or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, shall be employed as the solicitor or bank, or accountant to the trust, unless removed for good cause by the Court upon the application of the public trustee, or of any person appearing to the Court to be interested in the trust.
>
> 'Where it appears to the public trustee that any solicitor, or firm of solicitors, or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, has been ordinarily employed in matters connected with any trust he may on the application or with assent of any of such persons as appear to him to be principally interested in the income of the trust, for the time being employ such solicitor, or firm of solicitors, bank, or accountant or firm of accountants as the solicitor or bank or accountant to the trust. Where a solicitor or firm of solicitors or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, is employed in pursuance of this clause the Consolidated Fund shall not be liable to meet any liability arising from any default of such persons or bank, and the public trustee shall not be deemed to have notice of any matter merely by reason of such persons or bank having had notice thereof.'"—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 660
Mr. Edmund Faber (*Hampshire, Andover*) 663
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 664
Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield Central*) 665
The Solicitor-General (*Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University*) .. 665

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, being returned—

Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (See page 625.)

Question again proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Slack (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) 668

A clause (Vesting of lands in public trustee)—

"In page 2, after Clause 3, to insert the following clause:—In any case where (a) The public trustee is appointed (whether by the Court or otherwise and whether as an original or new trustee) to be trustee of any will, settlement, or other instrument or to perform any trust or duty belonging to a class which he is authorised by any general order under this Act to accept; or (b) Probate of a will or letters of administration are granted to the public trustee; or (c) The estate of a deceased person has been transferred to the public trustee for administration jointly with any other person or corporation aggregate or sole, then and in such case the several provisions following shall apply and have effect (that is to say):—(1) If sufficient cause is shown, a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court, on an application by or on behalf of a private trustee or a beneficiary, may, in his discretion, order that any lands or any term, estate, or interest in lands subject to the trusts of such will, settlement, or instrument, or to which such trust or duty relates, or or forming part of the state of the testator or intestate or of the estate so transferred to the public trustee for administration jointly with such person or corporation as aforesaid shall be vested in the public trustee alone, and thereupon the same shall vest in the public trustee and his successors for all the estate and interest jointly holden by the public trustee and such other person or corporation without any conveyance or assurance thereof; and no such vesting order shall take effect in respect of any copyhold land without the consent of the lord of the manor, and such Judge may direct such periodical or other payment as such Judge may think fit to be made to the lord of the manor in compensation for fines or other profits which would have become due upon death or admittance of tenants; (2) Unless a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court shall on the application of a private trustee or a beneficiary by order at any time otherwise direct, and subject to any such order the public trustee shall, whether any such vesting order as aforesaid shall have been made or not, be deemed a bare trustee, and shall permit such other person or corporation as aforesaid to have the possession, management, and control of such lands, or term, estate, or interest in lands as aforesaid and the application of the income thereof as if the same had been vested in them; (3) If sufficient cause is shown a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court on an application by or on behalf of a private trustee or a beneficiary may in his direction order that any securities or other personal property or effects subject to the trusts of such will or settlement, or to which such trust or duty relates, or forming part of the estate of the testator or intestate or of the estate transferred to the public trustee for administration jointly with such person or corporation as aforesaid, shall be transferred to or deposited with the public trustee alone; (4) Unless a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court shall on the application of a private trustee or a beneficiary by order at any time otherwise direct, and subject to any such order the public trustee shall allow the dividends, interest, or income of such securities, personal estate, or effects until the same shall have been transferred or deposited with him alone to be received by such other person or corporation as aforesaid, and if and when the same shall have been transferred to or deposited with him alone shall, without any fee or charge pay or cause to be paid such dividends, interest, or income to such other person or corporation as aforesaid, or as they shall in writing direct; (5) Whether such lands, or term estate, or interest in lands as aforesaid shall have been vested in, or such securities, personal estate, or effects as aforesaid, shall have been transferred to or deposited with, the public trustee alone or not, no sale of such lands, term estate, or interest in lands, or such securities, or personal estate, or effects as aforesaid shall be made except with the consent of the public trustee under his seal, and no document required for the purpose of effecting any such sale (and not being an instrument of transfer of any stock, shares, or securities entered in the books of any company or other body) shall be valid or effectual unless executed by the public trustee under his seal. Provided always that if the public trustee, when requested by such other person or corporation as aforesaid to give such consent in writing or to execute such document as aforesaid, shall unreasonably refuse or neglect to give such consent or to execute such document, any private trustee or any beneficiary may apply to a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court for an order directing the public trustee to give such consent or execute such document, and the Judge may make such order upon the application as he may think fit, including, if the Judge think fit, an order for the payment of the costs of the application by the public trustee. The public trustee shall forthwith act in accordance with any order made under this section directing him to give such consent or execute such document as aforesaid. Save as in the foregoing portion of this sub-section is enacted the consent or concurrence of the public trustee shall not be required to or in the execution or exercise by such other person or corporation as aforesaid of any trusts or powers relating to or affecting any such lands, term estate, or interest in lands, securities, personal estate, and effects as aforesaid, and requiring the exercise of any discretion."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Edward Carson 671

Question put and negatived.

Mr. Slack 672

A clause (Retirement of private trustees)—

"In Page 4, after Clause 9, to insert the following clause:—(1) Where the public trustee is appointed to be a trustee of any trust jointly with any private trustee, and such private trustee shall by deed declare that he is desirous on the ground of the appointment of the public trustee of being discharged from the trust, then the private trustee desirous of being so discharged shall be deemed to have retired from the trust and shall by the deed be discharged therefrom under this Act without the consent of any other person being necessary thereto and without any new trustee being appointed in his place and notwithstanding that after such discharge the public trustee will be sole continuing trustee of the trust. (2) Any assurance or thing requisite for vesting the trust property in the continuing trustees or trustee alone shall be executed or done. (3) When a deed by which a retiring trustee is discharged under this Act contains a declaration by the trustee so discharged to the effect that any estate or interest in any land subject to the trust or in any chattel so subject or the right to recover or receive any debt or other thing in action so subject shall vest in the continuing trustee or trustees alone that declaration shall without any conveyance or assignment operate to vest in the continuing trustee or trustees alone if more than one as joint tenants and for the purposes of the trust the estate interest or right to which the declaration relates. This sub-section does not relate to any legal estate or interest in copyhold or customaryhold land or to land conveyed by way of mortgage for securing money subject to the trust, or to any such share stock annuity or property as is only transferable in books kept by a company or other body or in manner directed by or under Act of Parliament. For the purpose of registration of the deed in any registry the trustee so discharged shall be deemed the conveying party, and the conveyance shall be deemed to be made by him under a power conferred by this Act. (4) This section applies to trusts created either before of after the commencement of this Act."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Edward Carson 673
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 673
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 673
Sir Robert Reid 674
Mr. H. D. Greene (*Shrewsbury*) 674
Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (*Lincolnshire; Gainsborough*) 674

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 39 ; Noes 194. (Division List No. 222).

Mr. Slack 677

A clause (Public trustee to give security)—

"In page 4, after Clause 10, to insert the following clauses :—'The public trustee shall, within one month after his appointments as sole trustee of any trust exceeding the value of £10,000, or after the grant to him alone of probate or letters of administration in respect of an estate exceeding that value, give security to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade for the due application of the trust property to such an amount as shall be the estimated amount of the trust property which, under or by virtue of such trust or grant, will come to his hands or be under his control.' "—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Edward Carson 677

Amendment and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

A clause (Audit of accounts of public trustee).

> "Once in every year the accounts of every trust of which the public trustee is sole trustee shall be audited and a report thereon made by the auditor appointed by the Board of Trade, and any beneficiary under such trust shall be entitled to attend such audit, and to take at his own expense or make copies of and extracts from any books or documents of account."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir Edward Carson 678
Mr. Gibson Bowles 679
Sir Henry Fowler 679

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as Amended, added to the Bill.

Mr. Slack 680
Sir A. Helder (*Whitehaven*) 680

A clause (Meeting of beneficiaries).

> "Within one month after the completion of the said audit the public trustee shall convene a meeting of the beneficiaries under the trust and the guardians of such beneficiaries as are minors, and shall report to them the position of the affairs of the trust and lay before them the accounts of the trust for the last year, as audited by the said auditor, together with the report of the said auditor thereon."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Mr. Malcolm (*Suffolk, Stowmarket*) 681
Sir Henry Fowler 681
Sir Edward Carson 682

Motion and Clause by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Slack 682

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 1, line 5, after the word 'trustee,' to insert the words 'for every district created for the purposes of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir Edward Carson 683

Question put and negatived.

Sir Edward Carson 683

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out the word 'High.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Sir Edward Carson 684

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, at end to insert the words, '(4) The entry of the public trustee by that name in the books of a company shall not constitute notice of a trust, and a company shall not be entitled to object to enter the name of the public trustee on its books by reason only that the public trustee is a corporation.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 16, at beginning to insert the words, 'Subject to the provisions of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'settlement,' to insert the words, 'or other instrument creating a trust.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. L. D. Greene 685

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, lines 18 and 19, to leave out the words, 'a general order under this section,' and insert the words, 'the rules to be made under this Act.'"—(*Mr. L. D. Greene.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 26, at end, to insert the words, '(2) Where the public trustee has been appointed a trustee of any trust, a co-trustee may retire from the trust under and in accordance with Section 11 of the Trustee Act, 1893, notwithstanding that there are not more than two trustees.'"—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

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Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Butcher (*York*) 685

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words, 'but the consent of the parties mentioned in such section shall not be required.' "—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added to the proposed Amendment."

Sir Edward Carson 685

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Slack 686

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 26, at the end to insert the words '(2) The public trustees shall not be so appointed either as a new or additional trustee. Where the will, settlement, or other instrument creating the trust or duty contains a direction to the contrary.—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir Edward Carson 686
Sir Henry Fowler 687
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 688
Sir Robert Reid 689
Mr. Butcher 689
Mr. Samuel Evans 689
Mr. Harwood Banner 690
Sir James Joicey (*Durham, Chester-le-Street*) 690
Mr. Gibson Bowles 690
Mr. Perks (*Lincolnshire, Louth*) 691
Sir F. Dixon Hartland (*Middlesex, Uxbridge*) 692
Sir A. Helder 692

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words 'unless the Court otherwise order.' "—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Col. Pilkington (*Lancs., Newton*) 693

Question put, "That those words be there added."

The House divided :—Ayes, 213 ; Noes, 55. (Division List No. 223.)

Words, as amended, inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "At the end of the last Amendment to insert the words, '(b) Where the appointment is objected to by any persons beneficially entitled whether for life or in remainder or otherwise and whether absolutely or contingently to not less than one-half in value of the trust property, or if they are infants by their guardians, unless the Court otherwise order.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question put, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 213; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 224.)

And, it being after half-past Five of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Friday next.

War Stores (Commission) Bill.—[Second Reading.]—Order for the Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 699

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 3rd JULY, 1905.

Sat First.—The Lord Bowes (*E. Strathmore and Kinghorne*) sat first in Parliament after the death of his father 701

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company [h.l.].

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders have not been complied with in respect of the Petition for the following Bill:—

Dover Harbour.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 701

Dover Harbour—(**Petition for Bill**).—Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Thursday next 701

Dublin United Tramways Bill.—The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed 701

Tramways Order Confirmation (No 1) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 701

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.].—Committed 701

Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; North British Railway (General Powers) Bill; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill.—Moved, "That the order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to. Bills read 2ª accordingly 701

Newry, Keady and Tynan Light Railway Bill.—Committed 702

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; North British Railway (General Powers) Bill.—Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 702

Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill.—Committed 702

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill.—Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 702

London County Council (Money) Bill; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill.—Committed 702

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, Amendments made, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 702

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Standing Order No. 93 considered (according to order), and dispensed with, with respect to a Petition of the Electrical Contractors' Association and others. Leave given to present the said Petition 702

Malvern Water Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners 702

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Highland Railway Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to .. 702

Great Northern Railway Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 702

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill (No. 115); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill (No. 116); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 117); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 118); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill (No. 119).—Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 702

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Fisheries (Scotland).—Twenty-third Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1904. Part III. Scientific Investigations 703

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (Agricultural Statistics, 1904).—Report on the agricultural returns relating to acreage and produce of crops and number of live stock in Great Britain, with summaries for the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries, and particulars of prices, imports, and exports of agricultural produce .. 703

Explosives Act, 1875.—Twenty-ninth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, being their Annual Report for the year 1904. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 703

Greenwich Hospital and Travers' Foundation.—Statement of estimated income and expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1905-1906 703

Public Works Loan Board.—Thirtieth Annual Report of the Public Works Loan Board, 1904–1905 (with Appendices) 703

Pacific Cable Act, 1901 (Account 1904–1905).—Account showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of the Pacific Cable Act, 1901, and the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act, to the 31st March, 1905; together with report of the Chairman of the Pacific Cable Board 703

Polling Districts (County of Cambridge).—Order made by the County Council of the county of Cambridge redividing the Eastern District of the county into polling districts. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 704

Imports from British Colonies.—Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of this day) and to be printed. (No. 120) .. 704

Shipowners' Negligence (Remedies) Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Tuesday the 11th instant. (*The Lord Ludlow.*) (No. 113) 704

Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a to-morrow. (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*). (No. 114) 704

Imports from British Colonies.

The Earl of Portsmouth 704

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Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for a Return showing the average wholesale prices in the months of June and December in each year from 1890 to 1904, inclusive, of the following articles imported from the principal exporting British Colonies: wheat, oats, beef, fresh (including frozen), butter, cheese, and wool."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Duke of Marlborough*) 710

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Return ordered accordingly.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA.

Lord Tweedmouth 713
The Under-Secretary of State for India (*The Marquess of Bath*) 715

MOTOR CAR SPEED.

Earl Russell 716
Lord Herries 719
Lord Kenyon 720
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 721

MOTOR-CARS IN HYDE PARK.

The Earl of Rosslyn 723
The First Commissioner of Works (*Lord Windsor*) 724
The Marquess of Ripon 727
Lord Vivian 728

House adjourned at Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 3RD JULY, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time .. 728

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Dover Harbour Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 728

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PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Ordered that the Bill be read a second time to-morrow 729

Seaham Gas Bill; Swansea Corporation Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 729

Barrymore Estate Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 729

Hythe Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments .. 729

University College, London (Transfer) Bill [LORDS]; Weaver Navigation Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment .. 729

London County Council (Tramways) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 729

Malvern Water Bill.—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 729

Mansfield Corporation Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 729

Sandgate Urban District Council Bill [LORDS]; Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [Lords]; Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 730

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 730

Blackpool Improvement Bill [LORDS]. Ordered, That Standing Orders 204 and 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed 730

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 730

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to amend The Crown Cases Act, 1848." [Criminal Cases (Reservation of Points of Law) Bill [Lords.]

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And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to remove difficulties which prevent the dealing by way of mortgage with the fee simple of certain estates of the late Thomas George Corbett, esquire, deceased, situate in the County of Lincoln; and for other purposes." [Corbett Estate Bill [Lords.] .. 730

Corbett Estate Bill [Lords].—Read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.. 730

PETITIONS.

Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Greenock, in favour; to lie upon the Table 731

Unemployed Workmen Bill.—Petition from Dewsbury, against; to lie upon the Table 731

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Merchant Seamen's Fund.—Account [presented 29th June] to be printed. [No. 222.] 731

Public Revenue (Interception).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 4th May; *Mr. Gibson Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 223.] 731

Public Works Loan Board.—Copy presented, of Thirtieth Annual Report (for 1904–05), with Appendices [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 224.] 731

Pacific Cable Act, 1901.—Account presented, showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of the Pacific Cable Act, 1901, and of the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act to the 31st March, 1905, together with a Copy of the Report of the Chairman of the Pacific Cable Board [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 225.] 731

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (Agricultural Returns).—Copy presented, of Report on the Agricultural Returns for Great Britain, with Statistics for the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and Foreign Countries for 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 731

Explosives.—Copy presented, of Twenty-ninth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, being for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 731

Polling Districts (County of Cambridge).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Cambridge, redividing the Eastern District of the County into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 732

Fishery Board (Scotland).—Copy presented, of Twenty-third Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1904. Part III. Scientific Investigations [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 732

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GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.—Copy presented, of Statement of the estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1905–6 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 226.] 732

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

IRISH EDUCATION—BI-LINGUAL SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 732

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SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF POLICE FORCE AT SNEEM.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 733

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King Estate, Templeboy, County Sligo.—Question, Mr. William McKillop (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 742

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Boycotting at Longhrea.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 743

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Grazing Lands on the Brown Hall Estate, County Mayo.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 744

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NEW MEMBER.—New Member made the Affirmation required by Law—Joseph Allen Baker, esquire, for the Parliamentary Borough of Finsbury (East Division).

Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill.—Read the third time, and passed.

Aliens Bill

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

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[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 794

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'are,' to insert the word 'not.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'not' be there inserted."

The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 795
Mr. Atherley-Jones (Durham, N.W.) 796
Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) 796
Mr. Bright (Islington, E.) 796
Mr. Churchill (Oldham) 796
Lord Edmund FitzMaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade) 797

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 161 ; Noes, 210. (Division List No. 225).

Mr. Atherley-Jones 801

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, at the end, to insert the words—'(3) It shall be the duty of the immigration officer, when he has withheld leave to land as aforesaid, to notify to the master of the ship and to any immigrant to whom he has so withheld leave the ground or grounds upon which he has so withheld leave and that such master or immigrant may appeal therefrom to the immigration authority of the port.'"—(*Mr. Atherley-Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Secretary of State for The Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 803
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 803
Sir Robert Finlay 804
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 804
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 806
Sir Robert Finlay 807
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 807
Mr. Akers-Douglas 807

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire) 808

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, at the end, to insert the words 'and where leave to land is also withheld by the Immigration Board, the master of the ship may appeal to a Divisional Court of the King's Bench Division or, where such Court cannot be formed within seven days of the notice of such appeal to a judge of the said division, and such Court or Judge shall, if satisfied that the immigrant is not an undesirable immigrant within the meaning of this section, give leave to land, and leave so given shall operate as the leave of the immigration officer.' "—(*Mr. Tennant.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Robert Finlay 808
Mr. Nussey (Pontefract) 809
Mr. Peel (Manchester, S.) 809
Mr. Dalziel 809
Mr. Seely (Lincoln) 809
Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury) 810
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 811
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 812
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) 814
Sir Robert Finlay 814
Mr. Asquith 815
Mr. Tennant 816
Mr. William Rutherford 816
Mr. Seely (Lincoln) 816
Sir Robert Finlay 816
Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough) 818
Mr. Gibson Bowles 818

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 176 ; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 226.)

Mr. Atherley-Jones 821

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 21, to leave out Subsection 3."—(*Mr. Atherley-Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'immigrant' in line 22, stand part of the clause."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 827

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Emmott 828

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out sub-paragraph (a)."—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'if' stand part of the clause."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 833
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 837
Mr. A. J. Balfour 839
Mr. Wills (Dorsetshire, N.) 841
Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich) 843
Sir James Joicey (Durham, Chester-le-Street) 843
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) 846
Mr. Levy 846

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Aliens Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out sub-paragraph (a)."—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'if' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Levy 847
Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 848
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade) 851
Mr. Akers-Douglas 852
Mr. John Wilson (Durdam, Mid) 853
Sir Carne Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) 856
Mr. Churchill 856
Major Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) 860
Dr. Hutchinson (Sussex, Rye) 863
Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) 865
Col. Williams (Dorsetshire. W.) 866
Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 866
Sir Christopher Furness (Hartlepool) 869

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 158. (Division List No. 227)

Mr. Bright 873

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out from the word 'if' to the end of the line, and insert the words 'it can be shown that he has not in his possession or is not in a.' "—(*Mr. Bright.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Sir Robert Finlay 875
Mr. Churchill 875
Mr. Dalziel 876

And it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

War Stores Commission Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported without Amendment.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.

Clause 1:—

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 877

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.*) 877
Mr. Churchill (*Oldham*) 878
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 878

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 136. (Division List No. 228.)

Mr. Churchill 885
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 885
Mr. Churchill 886

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 127 ; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 229.)

Question put accordingly, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 125 ; Noes, 79. (Division List No. 230.)

Clause 2 :—

Mr. Churchill 891

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 19, to leave out the word 'borrow,' and insert the word 'obtain.'"—(*Mr. Churchill.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'borrow' stand part of the clause."

Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 893
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 894
Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) 895

Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 73 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 231.)

Mr. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 118 ; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 232.)

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'borrow' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 117 ; Noes, 73. (Division List No. 233.)

Mr. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER claimed to move, "That the Question 'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 116 ; Noes, 73. (Division List No. 234.)

Question put accordingly, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 116 ; Noes, 71. (Division List No. 235.)

Clause 3 :—

Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Churchill 909

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 115 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 236.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 115 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 237.)

Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report the Bill, without Amendment to the House."

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 113 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 238.)

Bill to be read the third time this day.

And, it being after One of the clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Three o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, 4th JULY, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with : Rathmines and Rathgar Extension and Improvement.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 921

Rathmines and Rathgar Extension and Improvement Bill.—Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Monday next 921

Whitechapel and Bow Railway Bill; Woolwich Borough Council Bill; Skegness Water Bill; Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [H.L.]; Bootle Corporation Bill; Andover Lighting and Power Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 921

Great Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill.—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 921

Wemyss Dock Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 921

Hitchin and District Gas Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 921

Barrymore Estate Bill [H.L.]; Hythe Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.]; University College, London (Transfer) Bill [H.L.]; Weaver Navigation Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to. 921

Seaham Gas Bill; Swansea Corporation Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 921

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 922

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; North British Railway (General Powers) Bill; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; Rhondda Urban District Council Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; North-Eastern Railway Bill; North-Estern Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill; Bolton Corporation Bill; Wemyss Dock Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.),

D. Northumberland (chairman).
E. Fitzwilliam.
E. Westmeath.
E. Craven.
L. Clinton.

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 922

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next 922

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3428. Netherlands (Curacoa).

No. 3429. Mexico (Mexico).

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie or the Table 922

Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill.—Read 2^a (according to order). Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next 922

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Earl Spencer 923
The Under-Secretary of State for War (The Earl of Donoughmore) .. 923

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SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (IRELAND) (NO. 2) BILL [H.L.]—[THIRD READING].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

On Question Bill read 3ª.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (*Lord Ashbourne*) 925

Amendments moved—

"In page 2, to leave out Clause 5, and insert the following clauses : —'In Section twelve of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) (No. 2) Act, 1897, the words "or such other member of the council of the society to be nominated for the purpose by the council" shall be inserted after the word "Ireland." 'In the Schedule to the Statute Law Revision Act, 1893, the words: "In Section seventy-two the words 'body or' shall be substituted for the following words relating to the Irish Bankrupt and Insolvent Act, 1857, namely, 'In Sections seventy-two to seventy-five the words 'body or' and the said Act of 1893 shall be read and construed as if the words so substituted had originally been enacted therein.'"—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Advertisements Regulation Bill [H.L.]—[THIRD READING].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 926

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 14, to leave out the words 'health or pleasure resort,' and after the word 'park' to insert the word 'pleasure.'" —(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 927

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Privilege Amendment agreed to.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 927

Moved, "That the Bill do now pass."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

THE MILITIA

The Duke of Bedford 928
The Marquess of Granby 936
Lord Blythswood 938
Lord Lovat 939
Earl Roberts 942
The Duke of Northumberland 943
The Duke of Richmond 947
The Under-Secretary of State for War (The Earl of Donoughmore) .. 949
Earl Spencer 955
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 961
The Marquess of Ripon 965

House adjourned at ten minutes before Seven o'clock, to Thursda next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 4TH JULY, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Western Railway (New Railways) Bill [LORDS].—Amendments considered, and agreed to 966

Hastings Tramways [LORDS].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 966

Gas and Water Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed 966

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP L).

Ordered, That the said George Montague Percy do attend the Committee on Group L of Private Bills upon Thursday, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 966

Donovan's Divorce Bill [LORDS].—Reported from the Select Committee on Divorce Bills, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time 967

Donovan's Divorce Bill [LORDS].—Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings in the House of Lords on the Second Reading of Donovan's Divorce Bill, together with the documents deposited in the case, be returned to the House of Lords.—(*Mr. Serjeant Hemphill.*) 967

Cork Junctions Railways Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 967

City of London (Escape from Fire) Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table 967

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PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP E).—Sir HENRY AUBREY-FLETCHER reported from the Committee on Group E of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Thursday, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 967

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, to act as executors, administrators, and trustees; and in other fiduciary capacities." [Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [Lords] .. 967

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills .. 967

PETITIONS.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.—Petition from Westminster, against; to lie upon the Table 968

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th March; *Mr. Eugene Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 227.] 968

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

OUTBREAK OF EPIZOOTIC LYMPHANGITIS AMONGST HORSES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 968

PROPOSED MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 969

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INVESTIGATION OF FIELD FORCE CANTEEN ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 969

ARREARS OF INTEREST ON PURCHASE MONEY UNCOLLECTED FROM TENANTS ON THE KING-HARMAN ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 969

GOVERNMENT REDISTRIBUTION PROPOSALS.—Question, Mr. Nussey (Pontefract); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 970

REDUCTION OF TELEGRAPH RATE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND INDIA—LOSS INCURRED.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 970

CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PIERS AT EMERWICK AND BALLYDAVID.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 971

SURREY EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Whitley (Halifax); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 971

LIGHTING OF PARLIAMENT SQUARE.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Lord Balcarres 972

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CONTEMPLATED PARTITION OF BENGAL.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick - 972

COUNTY OF WATERFORD PETTY SESSIONS CASES.—Question, Mr. O'Shee; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 973

DESTRUCTION OF ANCIENT MONUMENT ON KING-HARMAN ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 973

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

VOLUNTEERS AND SERVICE ABROAD.—Questions, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 974

CAVALRY DEPOTS.—Question, Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 975

ARMY REORGANISATION.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 975

LORD MILNER AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR STORES.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 976

INSOLVENCY OF MR. VAN RENSBURG.—Questions, Mr. Whitley (Halifax); Answers, Mr. Lyttelton 977

DE BEERS DIAMOND COMPANY AND CONVICT LABOUR.—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottingshamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 977

FINANCIAL DISPUTE WITH NEW ZEALAND.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 978

INCOME-TAX ON EASTER OFFERINGS.—Questions, Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 978

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GRANTS.—Questions, Mr. Whitley; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 979

IRISH-BORN AMERICANS AND THE ALIENS BILL.—Questions, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burgh) .. 979

MOTOR SCORCHERS—POLICE WARNING.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 980

TRACTION ENGINE TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAYS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 981

ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL RAILWAY RATES AT SWANSEA.—Questions, Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District); Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 982

West Sussex Education Authority—Pupil Teachers' Agreements.—Question, Mr. Bull (Hammersmith); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) .. 983

Sanitation in the Island of Lewis.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Lord-Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 983

School Grants in the Island of Lewis.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 983

Lemreway School, Island of Lewis—Water Supply and Drainage.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 984

Fever at Balallan, Island of Lewis.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson.. 984

Alleged Boycotting of Jews at Limerick.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.), Mr. Joyce (Limerick) and Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, E.) 985

Mineral Deposits at Annaghmore, County Cork.—Question, Mr. Crean (Cork, S.E.) and Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 986

Attacks of Clergymen in Dublin.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 987

Newry Public Servants' Grievance.—Questions, Mr. Sloan; Answers, Mr. Walter Long 987

Ballynease National Schools.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 988

Galway Assize Jury Panel—Alleged Re-introduction of Coercion Practices.—Questions, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.), and Mr. John Redmond; Answers, Mr. Walter Long and the Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 9

Bryanstown Boundary Dispute.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 990

Toneymore Grazing Farm, County Longford.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 991

Crime in Limerick.—Question, Mr. Joyce; Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 991

Agricultural Experiments in County Cavan.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 991

Mullingar Asylum.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 992

Waterford Bridge.—Questions, Mr. John Redmond, Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.) and Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long and Mr. Austin Chamberlain 992

The De L'Herault's Estate.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.) and The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) .. 994

SNEEM POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, The Postmaster-General, Lord Stanley (Lancashire, Westhoughton) 996

THE ROYAL CANAL.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 996

THE UNEMPLOYED BILL.—Questions, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughboro'), Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 997

MINISTERIAL PLEDGES.—Questions, Mr. Dalziel (Kircaldy Burghs); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 998

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.—LORD CURZON.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Speaker 998

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.—Mr. JOHN REDMOND, Member for Waterford, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the putting into operation in the county of Galway of Section 3 of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, after an interval of some years and without any justification having been shown for such a course;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. SPEAKER called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen:—

The Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until the Evening Sitting, this day 999

NEW BILLS.

Valuation (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill.—"To amend the Irish Valuation Acts," presented by Mr. Joseph Devlin; supported by Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. William McKillop, Mr. Kilbride, and Mr. Field; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 259.] 1000

Canals (No. 2) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Canals," presented by Sir John Brunner; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 260.] 1000

ALIENS [EXPENSES].—Motion made, and Question put, "That this House will, To-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of the salary and remuneration of any officers, inspectors, or persons appointed under any Act of the present session to amend the Law with regard to Aliens, and of any expenses incurred in carrying such Act into effect (King's recommendation signified)."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 259; Noes, 141. (Division List No. 239.) .. 1000

Churches (Scotland) Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order for Second Reading read.

The Lord-Advocate (*Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton*) 1003

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir H. Campbell Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) .. 1020
Mr. Corbett (Glasgow, Tradeston) .. 1027
Mr. Black (Banffshire) .. 1028
Mr. Wylie (Dumbartonshire) .. 1035
Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross) .. 1037
Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick) .. 1039
Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) .. 1046
Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.) .. 1049

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out all the words after the word 'That,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'in the opinion of this House no approval should be given to any measure which has the effect of giving an Established Church the right to change or modify its creeds, or any formula of subscription thereto, without such change or modification being submitted and specifically sanctioned by Parliament.' "—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) .. 1053
Sir Mark Stewart (Kirkcudbrightshire) .. 1061
Mr. Samuel Smith (Flintshire) .. 1064
Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) .. 1065
Mr. Compton Rickett (Scarborough) .. 1068

And it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

ADJOURNMENT (UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 10) (OPERATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW IN COUNTY GALWAY).

Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) .. 1071
Mr. Roche (Galway, E.) .. 1075

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn." —(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

Colonel Saunderson (Armagh, N.) .. 1077
Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway) .. 1080
Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.) .. 1084
Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny, N.) .. 1087
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) .. 1090
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) .. 1097

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 136; Noes, 176. (Division List No. 240.)

War Stores (Commission) Bill. [Third Reading.]—Order for the Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a third time."

Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 1103
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 1103
Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 1104
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1105
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 1106
Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby) 1106

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Public Roads (Ireland) Bill.—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill read the third time and passed 1106

Foreign Ships (Statutory Requirements) Committee.

Ordered, That Sir Hugh Shaw-Stewart be discharged from the Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Evelyn Cecil be added to the Committee.—*(Sir A. Acland-Hood.)* 1107

Protection of Life from Fire Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Malcolm be discharged from the Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Guy Pym be added to the Committee.—*(Sir A. Acland-Hood.)* 1107

Adjournment.—Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—*(Sir A. Acland-Hood.)*

Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 1107
The Lord-Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 1108
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) 1108
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 1108

Notice taken that forty Members were not present; House counted, and forty Members not being present:—

Adjourned at nineteen minutes before One o'clock

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 5TH JULY, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [LORDS]; Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords]; County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords]; Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 1109

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 2) Bill (BY ORDER).—Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next 1109

Central London Railway Bill (BY ORDER).—Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next 1109

London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Scheme confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1109

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).—Ordered, That Professor E. A. Letts, Mr. Conway Scott, Mr. M. J. F. Napier, Mr. W. A. Currie, and Colonel F. F. Hill, D.S.O., do attend the Committee on Group J of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the Clock 1109

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LONDON TRAFFIC (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the Means of Locomotion and Transport in London, Vol. I. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1110

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Return of Prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1110

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated July 4th, 1905, amending the Schedule to the Minute of the 30th January, 1905, providing for the Establishment of Committees for the Training of Teachers [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1110

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated June 30th, 1905, granting to Mr. Clement Millard, superintending civil engineer at Portland, a Retired Allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1110

ARKLOW HARBOUR.—Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1110

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3430 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1110

ARMY (SALES AND REFUNDS) (SOUTH AFRICA).—Copy ordered, "of Correspondence relative to the disposal of Surplus Stores in South Africa." *Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 228.] 1111

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

IRISH ANCIENT MONUMENTS—ST. MEL'S CATHEDRAL.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1111

IRISH ROLL TOBACCO.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1112

EDGEWORTH LOAN FUND SOCIETY.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1112

THE KERRY FISHING INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1112

KING-HARMAN ESTATE—PROPOSED SALE OF EVICTED FARM.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1113

DOMICILIARY VISITS BY THE POLICE IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1113

PROPERTY OF LATE JAMES MURRAY (OR MR. GAWAN) IN RHODESIA.—Question, Mr. Lyttelton 1114

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS OF LATE ANN BROWN—CLAIM OF AXMINSTER GUARDIANS.—Question, Sir John Kennaway (Devonshire, Honiton); Answer, Lord Stanley 1114

POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER TO CANADA.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Lord Stanley 1115

INDOOR DUTIES FOR PROVINCIAL POSTMEN.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1115

PREFERENTIAL RAILWAY RATES FOR FOREIGN IMPORTS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1116

APPLICATION OF CROFTERS IN BENBECULA FOR EXTENSION OF HOLDINGS.—Question, Mr. John Dewar (Inverness); Answer, Mr. Scott-Dickson .. 1116

LIVERPOOL DOCK LABOURERS' STRIKE—ALLEGED INSANITARY CONDITION OF QUARTERS OF IMPORTED MEN.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1117

COLONIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL NAVY.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Woodstock); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1117

STUDENTS RESIDENT IN ENGLISH AND WELSH AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 1118

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OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE IN MADRAS.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1118

THE COUNCIL OF INDIA AND INDIAN ARMY ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1119

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN BELFAST.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1120

BELFAST TRAFFIC BY-LAWS.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1120

ALDERSHOT CAMP AND TIDWORTH ELECTRIC LIGHTING STATIONS.—Question, Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1121

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1121

VOLUNTEER REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Frederick Wilson (Norfolk, Mid); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1121

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

THE SINKING OF THE "AFGHANISTAN."—Questions, Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool West Derby), Mr. Charles Delvin (Galway), and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 1122

WAR STORES INQUIRY—DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1123

THE VOLUNTEERS.—Questions, Major Seely (Isle of Wight), Mr. C. R. Spencer (Northamptonshire, Mid), and Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.); Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster and the Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1124

ORDNANCE MAPS FOR VOLUNTEER OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S.W.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1127

BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1128

HORSE FLESH AS FOOD.—Questions, Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 1128

STATE EXPENDITURE.—Questions, Mr. McCrae; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1129

THE BRADFORD COMMITTEE'S REPORTS.—Question, Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton 1129

THREAT TO ASSASSINATE A MANCHESTER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1130

BEARING REINS.—Questions, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answers, Mr. Akers-Douglas 1131

THREAT TO ASSASSINATE SCOTTISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 1132

STRABANE PETTY SESSIONS CLERK.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1132

KERRY FISHING INDUSTRY.—Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1133

REENARD AND VALENTIA FERRY AND PIERS.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1133

MODUL AND NATIONAL SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1133

HORSE DISEASN AT WATERFORD.—Questions, General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest) and Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1134

POLICE PROTECTION TO MR. OWENS AT KILBRIDE.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1136

SALE OF ETHER AND LAUDANUM IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Joseph Devlin, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.), and Sir Wilfrid Lawson (Cornwall, Camborne); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1136

CONGESTION IN COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1137

KINVARA HARBOUR.--Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1137

LORD DE FREYNE'S BALLYFINTON ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1138

CRIME IN GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1138

BALLINLOUGHANE FISHERMEN.—Questions, Mr. Charles Devlin; Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1139

SALE OF IMPORTED TOBACCO AS IRISH ROLL.—Questions, Mr. Flynn and Mr. Joseph Devlin; Answers, Mr. Walter Long and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 1140

CONSULAR REPORTS—IRISH TRADE STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1141

NORTH OF IRELAND MAILS.—Questions, Mr McFadden (Donegal, E.) and Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answers, Lord Stanley 1142

DERRY TELEPHONE SERVICE.—Questions, Mr. Sloan ; Answers, Lord Stanley 1143

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.—Questions, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr) and Mr. MacVeagh ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1143

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).—Questions, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe), Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford, W.) ; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.), and Mr. Speaker 1144

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, " That the proceedings on the Motion relating to Aliens Bill (Procedure), if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this evening, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 233 ; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 241.)

ALIENS BILL (PROCEDURE).

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1149

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the proceedings in Committee and on Report of the Aliens Bill, including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto, shall, unless previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion at the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned :—

(*a*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining part of Clause 1, and Clauses 2 and 3, and on the Committee stage of the financial Resolution, shall be brought to a conclusion on Monday the 10th of July.

(*b*) The proceedings on the Report stage of the financial Resolution, and in Committee on Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Afternoon Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July.

(*c*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining Clauses of the Bill, on any new Clauses or Schedules, and any other proceedings necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Evening Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July.

(*d*) The consideration of the Report of the Bill shall be appointed for Monday the 17th of July, and shall be brought to a conclusion on that day.

(*e*) At 11 p.m. on Monday the 10th of July, and at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 12 midnight on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 11 p.m. on Monday the 17th of July, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall

next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question or any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every question necessary to dispose of the business allotted to the day or sitting.

(*f*) In the case of Government Amendments, or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be.

The Third Reading of the Bill shall be put down for the Evening Sitting on Wednesday the 19th of July, and at 12 midnight on that day the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill.

The proceedings to which this Order relates shall not be interrupted except at the Afternoon Sitting at 7.30 p.m. on the 11th and 17th of July, under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

After the passing of this Order, on any day or at any Sitting to which Business is allotted under this Order, no dilatory Motion on the Bill or Resolution, and no Motion to postpone a Clause of the Bill, shall be received unless moved by a Minister in charge of the Bill, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith.

No Motion under Standing Order 10 shall be received on the 10th, 11th, 17th, or 19th July, and no opposed Private Business shall be set down at the Evening Sitting for consideration on those days.

If Progress be reported, the Chairman shall put this Order in force in any subsequent sitting of the Committee."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 1159
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 1165
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 1169
Mr. Emmott (*Oldham*) 1173

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, to leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of Question, and insert the words 'having regard to the small amount of time already devoted to the consideration of the Aliens Bill in Committee, and the failure of the Government to press forward the measure at an earlier period of the session, this House declines to assent to any proposal having as its object the prevention of legitimate discussion on matters vitally affecting the liberty of the subject.' "—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'the' in line 1, stand part of the Question."

Mr. Parker Smith (*Lanarkshire, Partick*) 1176
Mr. Atherley Jones (*Durham, N.W.*) 1178
Sir Charles Renshaw (*Renfrew, W.*) 1181
Mr. Charles Hobhouse (*Bristol, E.*) 1182
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 1184
Mr. William Rutherford (*Liverpool, West Derby*) 1187
Mr. Rufus Isaac (*Reading*) 1187

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Mr. A. J. Balfour 1190
Mr. Lloyd George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 1194
Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 1199
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 1202
Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) 1204
Mr. Churchill (Oldham) 1205

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

Aliens Bill (PROCEDURE).

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Amendment to Question [5th July], " That the proceedings in Committee and on Report of the Aliens Bill, including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto, shall, unless previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion at the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned :—

(*a*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining part of Clause 1, and Clauses 2 and 3, and on the Committee stage of the financial Resolution, shall be brought to a conclusion on Monday, the 10th of July.

(*b*) The proceedings on the Report stage of the financial Resolution, and in Committee on Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Afternoon Sitting on Tuesday, the 11th of July.

(*c*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining Clauses of the Bill, on any new Clauses or Schedules, and any other proceedings necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Evening Sitting on Tuesday, the 11th of July.

(*d*) The consideration of the Report of the Bill shall be appointed for Monday, the 17th of July, and shall be brought to a conclusion on that day.

(*e*) At 11 p.m. on Monday, the 10th of July, and at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 12 midnight on Tuesday, the 11th of July, and at 11 p.m. on Monday, the 17th of July, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the business allotted to the day or sitting.

(*f*) In the case of Government Amendments, or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be.

The Third Reading of the Bill shall be put down for the Evening Sitting on Wednesday, the 19th of July, and at 12 midnight on thatning the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill.

The proceedings to which this Order relates shall not be interrupted except at the Afternoon Sitting at 7.30 p.m. on the 10th and 17th of July, under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

After the passing of this Order, on any day or at any Sitting to which Business is allotted under this Order no dilatory Motion on the Bill or Resolution, and no Motion to postpone a Clause of the Bill, shall be received unless moved by a Minister in charge of the Bill, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith.

No Motion under Standing Order 10 shall be received on the 10th, 11th, 17th, or 19th July, and no opposed Private Business shall be set down at the Evening Sitting for consideration on those days.

If Progress be reported, the Chairman shall put this Order in force in any subsequent sitting of the Committee."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Which Amendment was—

> " In line 1, to leave out from the word ' That,' to the end of the Question, and insert the words ' having regard to the small amount of time already devoted to the consideration of the Aliens Bill in Committee, and the failure of the Government to press forward the measure at an earlier period of the session, this House declines to assent to any proposal having as its object the prevention of legitimate discussion on matters vitally affecting the liberty of the subject.' "—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question again proposed, " That the word ' the,' in line 1, stand part of the Question."

Sir Carne Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*) 1210
Major Evans Gordon (*Tower Hamlets, Stepney*) 1211

Mr. DALZIEL rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question, " That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, " That the word ' the ' in line 1, stand part of the Question."

The House divided :—Ayes, 146 ; Noes, 107. (Division List No. 242.)

Mr. Dalziel 1216

Amendment proposed—

> " In line 1 to leave out the words ' and on Report.' "—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

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Question proposed, " That the words ' and on Report ' stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1216
Mr. M'Kenna (*Monmouthshire, N.*) 1216
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 1217
Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 1218
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 1218
The Attorney-General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 1218
Mr. Power (*Waterford, W.*) 1220
Mr. Kilbride (*Kildare, S.*) 1220
Mr. Lundon (*Limerick, E.*) 1220

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 174 ; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 243.)

Mr. Emmott 1223

Amendment proposed—

" In line 2, to leave out the words 'including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto.' "—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Question proposed," That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1224
Mr. Whitley 1225
Mr. Bright (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 1225
Mr. Runciman (*Dewsbury*) 1226

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 194 ; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 244.)

Mr. McKenna 1229

Amendment proposed—

" In line 3, to leave out all the words after the word 'thereto,' and add the words, ' shall be deemed to have been concluded, and the Question on the Third Reading of the Bill shall be put, and the Bill shall be passed in such form as, subject to Amendments, the Secretary of State introduced the Bill, as soon as the proceedings, if not previously disposed of, have been under discussion during three Afternoon Sittings and four Evening Sittings.' "—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' shall ' stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1230
Mr. Churchill 1231
Mr. George Whiteley (*Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) 1232
Mr. Tennant (*Berwickshire*) 1233
Mr. Lough 1233
Mr. Runciman 1233

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Whitley 1234
Mr. Leif Jones (*Westmoreland, Appleby*) 1234

Amendment proposed—

“ In line 3, to leave out all the words after the word ‘ shall ’ and insert the words ‘ if under consideration at Twelve o'clock not be interrupted under Standing Order ‘ Sittings of the House.’ ”—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, ‘ That the words proposed to be left out, to the end of line 4, stand part of the Question.”

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1236
Mr. Joseph Walton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley*) 1237
Mr. Trevelyan (*Yorkshire, W.R., Elland*) 1238
Mr. Churchill 1239
Mr. Wills (*Dorsetshire, N.*) 1239
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid.*) 1240
Mr. Dalziel 1242

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, 157. (Division List No. 245.)

Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 1245
Mr. Emmott 1245

Amendment proposed—

“ In line 6, to leave out Clauses 2 and 3, and insert Clause 2 ”—(*Major Seely*)—instead thereof.

Question proposed, “ That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.”

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1246
Mr. Runciman 1246
Mr. Churchill 1247
Mr. Charles Hobhouse 1247
Mr. McKenna 1247
Mr. Stuart Samuel 1248
Mr. Dalziel 1248

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 172 ; Noes, 134. (Division List No. 246.)

Main Question again proposed.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1251

Question proposed, “ That the debate be now adjourned.”—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

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Mr. A. J. Balfour 1252
Mr. McKenna 1253
Mr. Lough 1253
Mr. J. A. Pease (*Essex, Saffron Walden*) 1254
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 1254
Mr. Dalziel 1255

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1255

Amendment made.

Main Question, as amended, put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 113. (Division List No. 247.)

Ordered, That the proceedings in Committee and on Report of the Aliens Bill, including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto, shall, unless previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion at the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned —

(*a*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining part of Clause 1, and Clauses 2 and 3, and on the Committee stage of the financial Resolution, shall be brought to a conclusion on Monday the 10th of July.

(*b*) The proceedings on the Report stage of the financial Resolution, and in Committee on Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Afternoon Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July.

(*c*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining Clauses of the Bill, or any new Clauses or Schedules, and any other proceedings necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Evening Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July.

(*d*) The consideration of the Report of the Bill shall be appointed for Monday the 17th of July, and for the Evening Sitting of the 18th of July, and shall be brought to a conclusion on that day.

(*e*) At 11 p.m. on Monday the 10th of July, and at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 12 midnight on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 11 p.m. on Tuesday the 18th of July, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the business allotted to the day or sitting ;

(*f*) In the case of Government Amendments, or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be.

The Third Reading of the Bills shall be put down for the Evening Sitting on Wednesday the 19th of July, and at Twelve midnight on that day the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill.

The proceedings to which this Order relates shall not be interrupted except at the Afternoon Sitting at 7.30 p.m. on the 10th and 17th of July, under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

After the passing of this Order, on any day or at any Sitting to which Business is allotted under this Order, no dilatory Motion on the Bill or Resolution, and no Motion to postpone a Clause of the Bill, shall be received unless moved by a Minister in charge of the Bill, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith.

No Motion under Standing Order 10 shall be received on the 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, or 19th July, and no opposed Private Business shall be set down at the Evening Sitting for consideration on those days.

If Progress be reported, the Chairman shall put this Order in force in any subsequent sitting of the Committee.

And, it being after One of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-two minutes before Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 6TH JULY, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill.—Committee to meet on Thursday next 1261

Hythe Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.].—Commons Amendments considered and agreed to 1261

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.].—The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 163A relating to Private Bills, he had, on the requisition of the Chairman of Committees appointed Robert Moore, of 199, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, in the county of Essex, as guardian or protector of the infant Harry Charles Gray, to represent such infant before the Committee on the Bill 1261

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.].—The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That in pursuance of Standing Order No. 163A relating to Private Bills, he had, on the requisition of the Chairman of Committees, appointed Charles Theobald, of Salisbury House, London

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Wall, in the City of London, as guardian or protector of the infants the Honourable Roger Grey, commonly called Lord Grey of Groby, and the Honourable Jane Grey, commonly called Lady Jane Grey, to represent such infants before the Committee on the Bill 1261

South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª 1261

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1261

Great Western Railway (New Railways) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 1261

Donovan's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Minutes of Evidence and proceedings before this House on the Second Reading, together with the documents deposited in the case, returned from the Commons 1261

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow 1262

Glasgow Corporation (Tramways Consolidation) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] (No. 121).—A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Glasgow Corporation Tramways; And 1262

Glasgow Corporation Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] (No. 122).—A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Glasgow Corporation 1262

Were presented by the Marquess of Linlithgow (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Sections 8 and 9); read 1ª and to be printed 1262

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill.—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1262

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill.—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1262

Edgware and Hampstead Railway Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1262

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House as the panel of Lords to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—

V. Falkland,

L. Stewart of Garlies (*E. Galloway*).

Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly 1262

PETITIONS.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of Royal Sanitary Institute; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1263

SUNDAY CLOSING.—Petition for legislation for; of inhabitants of Carlisle; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1263

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 TO 1900 (SCOTLAND).—Report of the Inspector for Scotland under the Acts for the year 1904 1263

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 4th July, 1905, amending the schedule to the Minute of 30th January, 1905, providing for the establishment of Committees for the training of teachers 1263

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3430. Turkey (Salonica).

No. 3431. France (New Caledonia).

No. 3432. Roumania 1263

LONDON TRAFFIC.—Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the means of locomotion and transport in London (Volume I.) 1263

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Return of prices of certain classes of Irish agricultural products and live stock, for the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1263

LUNACY.—Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ended the 30th June, 1905 1263

MINES AND QUARRIES (GENERAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 1903. PART IV. COLONIAL AND FOREIGN STATISTICS).—Statistics relating to persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the British Colonies and in foreign countries 1264

ARKLOW HARBOUR.—Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners, and statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1904 1264

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 30th June, 1905, granting a retired allowance to Mr. Clement Millard, superintending civil engineer at Portland. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 1264

War Stores (Commission) Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow (*The Lord Chancellor*). (No. 123) 1264

Public Roads (Ireland) Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 124) 1264

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Order of the day for Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being suspended for this day's sitting, read, and discharged, and said Standing Order to be considered To-morrow in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting 1264

Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 1264

Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, etc., Continuance Bill. [Second Reading.]
Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Kenyon 1264

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*Lord Kenyon.*)

Earl Spencer 1266
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1275
Earl Carrington 1282
Lord Heneage 1283
Lord Monkswell 1285
Lord Welby 1286
Lord Herries 1288
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 1289

On Question, Bill read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Schools and the Hay Harvest.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon 1293
Lord Zouche of Haryngworth 1296
The Lord President of the Council and President of the Board of Education (*The Marquess of Londonderry*) 1298

Trawling in Non-Territorial Waters.

Lord Heneage 1302
Lord Windsor 1302

His Majesty the King of Spain.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that he had received from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the following translation of a note which had been addressed to him by the Spanish Ambassador at this Court.

Ordered, That the said Message be entered on the Journals of the House. .. 1502

House adjourned at ten minutes before Seven o'clock, till to-morrow half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 6th JULY, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [Lords].—A Verbal Amendment made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1303

Mansfield Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1303

London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time to-morrow 1330

Private Bills (Group L.)—Ordered, That James Lyon Whittle do attend the Committee on Group L of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock 1303

Private Bills (Group L.)—Sir Alexander Brown reported from the Committee on Group L of Private Bills, That for the convenience of parties they had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table 1304

Llandrindod Wells Urban District Council Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1304

Matlock Bath Improvement Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1304

Private Bills (Group J.)—Ordered, That George Rust, Robert Mallam, and William Joshua Thomas Welch do attend the Committee on Group J of Private Bills on Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock 1304

Message from the Lords.

That they have agreed to—Hitchin and District Gas Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Judicature (Ireland) Acts, 1877 to 1897, and Section 6 of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and the Law relating to Bankrupts, and to the constitution of certain Election Courts in Ireland." [Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act for authorising local authorities to make bye-laws respecting the exhibition of Advertisements." [Advertisements Regulation Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Company, for the construction of a Tramroad; and for other purposes." [Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Bill [Lords]. 1305

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills .. 1305

Southport, Birkdale and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords].—Ordered, That the Evidence taken before the Select Committee of this House on the Warrington Corporation Bill, 1899, be referred to the Committee on the Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords].—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 1305

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Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 1305

Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 1305

Educational Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Liverpool, etc.) Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 1306

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow 1306

Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1306

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1306

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1306

Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [Lords].—Metropolitan and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Water and Gas Bill [Lords]; Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table and to be printed 1306

PETITIONS.

Liquor Traffic.—Petition from South Shields, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 1306

Post Office (Telephone Agreement).—Petition from Nottingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1307

Street Betting Bill.—Petition from Reading, in favour to lie upon the Table 1307

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Mines and Quarries.—Copy presented, of General Report and Statistics for the year 1903, Part IV., Colonial and Foreign Statistics; Statistics relating to Persons employed, Output, and Accidents at Mines and Quarries in the British Colonies and in Foreign Countries [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1307

INEBRIATES ACTS (INSPECTOR'S REPORT (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report of the Inspector for Scotland, under the Inebriates Acts, for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1307

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.—Copies presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3428, 3429, 3431, and 3432 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1307

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Lunacy Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1905 [by Act] 1307

PASSENGERS TO PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.—Return ordered, "of the Numbers and Nationalities of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe in each month from June to December, 1905, distinguishing the principal Countries in which the Passengers contracted to land."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 229.] 1307

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, "showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, local authorities in Scotland have allocated and applied funds to the purposes of Technical Education during the year ending the 15th day of May, 1905, under the following Acts: The Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890; The Education and Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1892; The Technical Schools (Scotland) Act, 1887; The Technical Instruction Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1892; and Public Libraries Acts."—(*The Lord-Advocate.*) 1308

STANDING COMMITTEES (TITLES OF BILLS).—Return ordered, "showing the Titles of those Bills which have been committed to the Standing Committees for Law and trade respectively, in each year since 1901, the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; and the further stages through which they passed after Committee (in the same form as and in continuation of Return No. 92, of Session 1902):—

Law.							Trade.						
Title of Bill.	Days in Committee.	Report.	Considered or amended.	Third Reading.	Royal Assent.	Remarks.	Title of Bill.	Days in Committee.	Report.	Considered or amended.	Third Reading.	Royal Assent.	Remarks.

—(*Mr. John Edward Ellis.*) 1308

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

THE HUMBLE ESTATE, COUNTY WATERFORD.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1309

CORK JUNCTION RAILWAYS BILL—TREASURY GRANT.—Question, Mr. O'Shee; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1309

BRANDFORT NATIONAL CONGRESS—REPLY OF HOME GOVERNMENT.—Question, Mr. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1310

INCREASE OF VIVISECTION EXPERIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Akers-Douglas 1310

MARKYATE MOTOR-CAR FATALITY.—Question, Mr. H. D. Green (Shrewsbury); Answer, Mr. Akers-Douglas 1311

CIVIL SERVANTS ATTENDING VOLUNTEER CAMPS.—Question, Mr. Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1312

APPOINTMENT OF IRISH RESIDENT MAGISTRATES.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1312

POLLUTION OF DARTFORD WATER SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1312

ESTABLISHED AND ASSISTANT POSTMEN.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1313

WORKMEN'S TRAINS.—Question, Mr. John Burns (Battersea); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1313

SUBWAY AT TRAFALGAR SQUARE.—Question, Sir Walter Plummer (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, Lord Balcarres 1314

REVENUE DERIVED FROM TAXATION OF FOOD AND DRINK.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1315

THE LATE DEWAN OF DHAR'S ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1316

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR STATE OF TRAVENCORES.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1317

APPOINTMENTS RESERVED FOR EUROPEANS AND EURASIANS IN OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, INDIA.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1317

BELFAST MATERNITY HOSPITAL AND THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1318

ADVANCES UNDER THE IRISH LAND ACT, 1903.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1319

CANCER OPERATIONS IN IRISH WORKHOUSES.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1320

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LAND PURCHASE IN COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1321

CAPE COLONY AND COLONIAL INDUSTRIES.—Question, Mr. Benn; Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1321

SOLDIERS IN HOSPITAL.—Question, Colonel Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs); Answer, Mr. Arnold Forster 1321

ARMY MARKSMEN.—Question, Colonel Denny; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster .. 1322

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WAR STORES INQUIRY—REPATRIATION DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.), Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis), Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) and Sir A. Hayter (Walsall); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 1324

DANISH AGRICULTURE.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1327

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—TREATMENT OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1327

MILITARY BANDS AT RELIGIOUS CEREMONIALS.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1328

WREXHAM BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. George Kenyon (Denbigh Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1328

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MUSKETRY PRACTICE AT ST. MARY'S ISLAND.—Question, Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1330

THE VOLUNTEER VOTE.—Question, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) 1331

FINANCIAL REFORMS AT THE WAR OFFICE.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Gibson Bowles and Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office, Mr. Bromley Davenport (Cheshire, Macclesfield) 1331

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LORD CURZON AND THE INDIAN MILITARY COMMAND.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1333

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HAZEL GROVE (CHESHIRE) DISTURBANCES.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Disraeli (Cheshire, Altrincham), Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.), Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) and Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas (Kent, St. Augustine's) 1334

THE POST OFFICE—THE STANLEY REVISION.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) .. 1336

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ENGLAND AND WALES) ACT, 1888.—Question, Mr. Muldoon (Donegal, N.); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1337

WAR STORES INQUIRY—INVESTIGATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, The Attorney-General, Sir Robert Finlay (Inverness Burghs) 1338

LAND REGISTRATION ACT, 1897.—Questions, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn) and Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.); Answer, Sir Robert Finlay 1338

COUNTY ANTRIM PROSECUTORSHIP.—Questions, Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1340

RELIGIOUS DISTURBANCES IN GLASGOW.—Questions, Mr. Joseph Devlin; Answers, The Lord-Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) .. 1340

LISBURN ASSAULT TRIAL—QUESTION OF BAIL.—Questions, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1341

BANBRIDGE (COUNTY DOWN) TRIALS.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh, Mr. Kilbride and Mr. Joseph Devlin; Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1342

AMALGAMATION OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S. 1343

INFANTS' SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1343

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, AND INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1344

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Boland: Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1344

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IRISH LAND PURCHASE REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1345

PURCHASE OF EVICTED FARMS AND UNTENANTED LANDS IN TIPPERARY.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1345

MINERAL DEPOSITS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1345

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IRISH LAND PURCHASE.—Question, Mr. Lough; Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1346

KERRY EVICTED TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1347

THE ESTATE COMMISSIONERS AND EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Walter Long.. 1347

TARIFF REFORMERS IN DUBLIN.—Questions, Mr. Joseph Devlin and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1347

IRISH LAND PURCHASE ADVANCES.—Questions, Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.) and Mr. T. W. Russell 1349

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Henry Staveley Hill, esquire, for the County of Stafford (Kingswinford Division) 1349

Criminal Cases (Reservation of Points of Law) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 261.] 1349

Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 262.] 1350

SUPPLY [13TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1905–6. REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,920,538, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office Services, the Expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the Collection of the Post Office Revenue."

The Postmaster General (*Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton*) .. 1350
Captain Norton (*Newington, W.*) 1367
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 1374

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,920,438, be granted for the said Service."—(*Captain Norton.*)

Sir J. Fergusson (*Manchester, N.E.*) 1381
Mr. Schwann (*Manchester, N.*) 1383
Sir George Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 1385
Mr. Bayley (*Derbyshire, Chesterfield*) 1388
Mr. Ritchie (*Croydon*) 1389
Mr. Nannetti (*Dublin, College Green*) 1394
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 1397
Mr. Platt-Higgins (*Salford, N.*) 1400
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.*) 1400

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 205 ; Noes, 249. (Division List No. 248.)

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company Bill.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Bousfield (*Hackney, N.*) 1411
Mr. Remnant (*Finsbury Holborn*) 1414
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 1418

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out all the words from the word 'that,' and add the words 'this House declines to read the Bill a second time until the House has come to decision upon the Supply of Electricity Bill.' "—(*Mr. Remnant.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (*Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars*) 1423
Mr. Cripps (*Lancashire, Stretford*) 1431
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 1434
Mr. Haldane (*Haddingtonshire*) 1436
Mr. John Ellis (*Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 1438
Mr. Guest (*Plymouth*) 1439
Mr. Cumming Macdona (*Southwark, Rotherhithe*) 1440

Question put.

The House divided ; Ayes 198 ; Noes 158 (Division List No. 249.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.—Order for third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. Swift MacNeill 1445

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word ' now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words ' upon this day three months.' "—(*Mr. Swift MacNeill.*)

Question proposed. " That the word ' now ' stand part of the Question."

The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.*) .. 1447

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 118 ; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 250.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Sunday Trading (Scotland) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1449

Factory and Workshop Act (1902) Amendment Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1450

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed. " That this House do now adjourn."

(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)
Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 1451
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1451
Mr. Patrick O'Brien (*Kilkenny*) 1451
Sir A. Acland-Hood 1451

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the borough of Carlisle, in the room of the right hon. William Court Gully,, now Viscount Selby, called up to the House of Peers.—(*Mr. Herbert Gladstone.*)

Adjourned at Two minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 7TH JULY, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: —Malvern Water.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 1453

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for the Dover Harbour Bill ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

Read, and agreed to 1453

Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1453

London Gas Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1453

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 1) Bill.—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 1453

Dublin United Tramways Bill.—Committee to meet on Tuesday next .. 1453

Dover Harbour Bill [H.L.]—Presented, and read 1ª 1453

Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1453

Donovan's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to .. 1453

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.].; Mansfield Corporation Bill [H.L.]: Hastings Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 1453

Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill (No. 127); Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill (No. 128).—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Sections 9 and 16), deemed to have been read 2ª (*The Marquess of Linlithgow*), and reported from the Committee 1454

London Government Scheme (Hackney and Edmonton Unions) Bill (No. 129); London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill No. 130 —Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 1454

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.—House to be in Committee on Monday next 1454

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next 1454

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Building regulations, being principles to be observed in planning and fitting up new buildings for public elementary schools, together with rules as to construction and certain requirements as to plans 1454

IRISH LAND ACT, 1903.—Regulations made by the Lord-Lieutenant in pursuance of the provisions of Section 23 (8) of the Act 1454

ARMY (VOLUNTEERS).—Circular letter addressed to General Officers Commanding-in-Chief 1454

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—No. 450. Wei-hai-Wei (Report for 1904) 1454

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3433. United States (California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona) 1455

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—General report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1455

POST OFFICE (INLAND POST) STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1905, No. 781.—The Inland Post Amendment (No. 2) Warrant, 1905, dated June 26th, 1905. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table . 1455

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting 1455

Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill—Brought from the Commons and read 1ª. (Standing Order No. XXXIX, having been suspended), Bill read 2ª. Committee negatived. Bill read 3ª, and passed 1455

Coal Mines (Weighing of Minerals) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Thursday next.—(*The Lord Newton.*) (No. 125) 1455

Compensation for Damage to Crops Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 126) 1455

Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, etc., Continuance Bill.—House in Committee (accordng to order). Bill reported witho t Amendmen . Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 1455

NILE STEAMERS.

Lord Muskerry 1455

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne* 1456

LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES AT SEA.

Lord Muskerry 1456
The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Duke of Marlborough*) 1458
Viscount Knutsford 1460

War Stores Commission Bill. [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Bill read 2ª (according to order).

The Lord-Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 1460

Moved, "That the Bill be committed."—(*The Lord-Chancellor.*)

The Marquess of Ripon 1460
The Lord-Chancellor 1461
Lord Davey 1462
The Lord-Chancellor 1462

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

THE MEMORIAL TO LORD SALISBURY.

Earl Spencer 1463
Lord Hawkesbury 1463
The First Commissioner of Works (*Lord Windsor*) 1462

PASSENGERS TO PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Duke of Marlborough*) 1466

Moved, for a Return of the Numbers and Nationalities of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe in each month from June to December, 1905, distinguishing the principal countries in which the passengers contracted to land.—(*The Duke of Marlborough.*)

Earl Spencer 1466

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House adjourned at a quarter past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 7TH JULY, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

VISIT OF THE KING OF SPAIN.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House, That he had received a letter from the Secretary of State, which he read to the House 1467

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Corbett Estate Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1468

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next 1486

Donovan's Divorce Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1469

Hastings Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1469

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Liverpool, etc.) Bill [LORDS]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment .. 1469

Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill; London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill; Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1469

Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next .. 1469

London Government Scheme (Hackney and Edmonton Unions) Bill (by Order).—Read the third time, and passed 1469

Bangor (County Down) Water and Improvement Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1469

Great Central Railway Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1469

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (VOLUNTEERS).—Copy presented, of Circular Letter addressed to General Officers Commanding-in-Chief relative to the Volunteer Force [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1469

BOARD OF EDUCATION (BUILDING REGULATIONS).—Copy presented, of the Building Regulations, being principles to be observed in planning and fitting up new buildings for Public Elementary Schools, together with Rules as to construction and certain requirements as to plans [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1470

POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).—Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 2) Warrant, 1905, dated 26th June, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1470

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Irish Land Act, 1903 (Regulations).—Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Lord-Lieutenant in pursuance of the provisions of Section 23 (8) of The Irish Land Act, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1470

Revenue and Expenditure (England, Scotland, and Ireland).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 17th April; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 230.] 1470

Railway Accidents (General Report).—Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1470

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3433 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1470

Colonial Reports (Annual).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 450 (Wei-hai-Wei, Annual Report for 1904) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1470

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Death of Fitzpatrick in Cootehill Infirmary—Refusal of Local Doctor to Administer Ether.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 147

By-Laws in Rural Districts Return.—Question, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1472

Government Printing Contracts.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1472

Army Canteens—Tenant System.—Question, Mr. Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1472

Cape Colony and Natal's Contributions to the British Nayv.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Woodstock); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1473

Names on Carts in the Irish Language.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1474

Churches (Scotland) Bill—Government Amendments.—Question, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson .. 1474

Yield of Direct and Indirect Taxation.—Question, Mr. Toulmin (Bury, Lancashire); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1474

Results of Work of Seistan Commission.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Mancheste N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1475

Promotion of Irish National School Teachers.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1478

Compensation for Damage to Crops Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee) cconsidered.

Mr. Mount (*Berkshire, Newbury*) 1478

A Clause. (Powers for the extinction and prevention of fire).

"(1) A railway company may enter on any land and do all things reasonably necessary for the purpose of extinguishing, or arresting the spread of, any fire caused by sparks or cinders emitted from any locomotive engine.

"(2) A railway company may, for the purpose of preventing or diminishing the risk of fire in a plantation, wood, or orchard through sparks or cinders emitted from any locomotive engine, enter upon any part of the plantation, wood, or orchard, or on any land adjoining thereto, and cut down and clear away any undergrowth, and take any other precautions reasonably necessary for the purpose; but they shall not, without the consent of the owner of the plantation, wood, or orchard, cut down or injure any trees, bushes, or shrubs.

"(3) A railway company exercising powers under this section shall pay full compensation to any person injuriously affected by the exercise of those powers, including compensation in respect of loss of amenity, and any compensation so payable shall, in case of difference, be determined in England and Ireland by two justices in manner provided by Section 24 of The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, and in Scotland by the sheriff in manner provided by Section 22 of The Lands Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1845.—(*Mr. Mount.*)

Brought up, and read the first and second time.

Sir Mark Stewart (*Kirkcudbrightshire*) 1480

Amendment proposed to the clause—

"In line 1, after the word 'land' to insert the words 'or moorland.'" (*Sir Mark Stewart.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Brigg. (*Yorks, W.R., Keighley*) 1480
Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire., Lichfield*) 1480

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir James Rankin (*Herefordshire, Leominster*) 1480

Amendment proposed to the clause—

"In line 7, after the word 'engine' to insert the words 'after having obtained the consent of the owner of the plantation, wood, or orchard.'"—(*Sir James Rankin.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 1481
The Attorney-General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 1481

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Soares (*Devonshire, Barnstaple*) 1482

Amendment proposed to the clause—

"In line 7, to leave out from the word 'enter' to the word 'and,' in line 8, and insert the words 'thereon within twenty yards of the railway fence.' "—(*Sir Joseph Leese.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause,"

Mr. Mount 1483
Mr. Lyell (*Dorsetshire, E.*) 1483
Sir Edward Strachey (*Somersetshire, E.*) 1483
Mr. Edmund Faber (*Hampshire, Andover*) 1484
Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 1484

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause added to the Bill.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 5, after the word 'when' to insert the words 'after this Act comes into operation.' "

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 16, to leave out the word 'Act' and insert the word 'section.' "—(*Mr. Mount*).

Amendments agreed to.

Mr. Soares 1484

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out the word 'one' and insert the word 'five'—(*Mr. Soares*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the word 'one' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Bright (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 1485
Mr. Geo. Faber (*York*) 1485
Mr. Mount 1485
Mr. Courtenay Warner 1486
Sir Robert Finlay 1486
Mr. Spear (*Devonshire, Tavistock*) 1486
Mr. Luke White (*Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose*) 1487
Mr. H. D. Green (*Shrewsbury*) 1487

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, to leave out Clause 2."

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out the words 'No action under this Act shall be,' and insert the words 'This Act shall not apply in the case of any action for damage by fire.' "—(*Mr. Mount.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Sir Mark Stewart 1488

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out the word 'seven," and insert the word 'fourteen' "—(*Sir Mark Stewart*)—instead thereof.

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Bill."

Sir Chas. Renshaw (*Renfrew, W.*) 1489
Mr. Soares 1489
Col. Pilkington 1489
Mr. Lyell 1490

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Robert Finlay 190

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'damage' to insert the words 'and within fourteen days as regards particulars of the damage.' "—(*The Attorney-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Sir Mark Stewart 1491

Amendment proposed to the Bill

"In page 2, line 15, after the word 'land,' to insert the words 'or moorland.' "—(*Sir Mark Stewart.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or moorland' be there inserted."

Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (*Lincolnshire, Gainsborough*) 1491
Sir Chas. Renshaw 1491

Question put and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 24, to leave out the words 'Compensation for Damage to Crops,' and insert the words 'Railway Fires.' "—(*Mr. Mount.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 24, at end to insert the words 'This Act shall apply to agricultural land under the management of the Commissioners of Woods and to agricultural crops thereon.' "—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish.*)

Motion made, and Question, "That the Bill be now read the third time," put, and agreed to.

(King's consent signified), Bill read the third time, and passed.

Coal Mines (Weighing of Minerals) Bill.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 17, after the words 'deputy check-weigher,' to insert the words 'as the case may be.' "

"In page 2, line 10, after the words 'check-weigher,' to insert the words, 'or deputy-check-weigher.' "

"In page 2, line 14, to leave out the word 'so.' "

"In page 2, line 14, after the word 'paid,' to insert the words 'as aforesaid.' "

"In page 2, line 16, at the beginning, to insert the words 'For the purposes of the principal Act and of this Act.' "

"In page 2, line 19, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'be deemed to.' "

"In page 2, line 28, after the word 'gotten,' to insert the words 'be deemed to.' "

"In page 2, line 29, after the word 'those,' to insert the words 'who are.' "

"In page 2, line 29, to leave out the words 'in respect of,' and insert the word 'from.' "

"In page 3, line 10, after the word 'and,' to insert the words 'The Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment Act, 1903, and.' "—(*Mr. Compton Rickett.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a third time."

Mr. Compton Rickett (*Scarborough*) 1492
Colonel Pilkington (*Lancashire, Newton*) 1493

Mr. John Wilson (*Durham, Mid*) 1495
Colonel Pilkington 1496
Sir William Tomlinson (*Preston*) 1496
The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.*) 1496

Bill read the third time and passed.

Drunkenness (Ireland) Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee) considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 31, after the word 'or,' to insert the word 'knowingly.'"—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 1497
Mr. T. W. Russell 1498
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 1498
Mr. Joseph Devlin (*Kilkenny, N.*) 1499
Mr. Nolan (*Louth, S.*) 1499

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'be,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 'recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of Clauses 11 and 13.'"—(*Mr. Nolan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Mooney (*Dublin, County, S.*) 1501

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 137 ; Noes, 22. (Division List No. 251.)

Main Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 147 ; Noes, 18. (Division List No. 252.)

Bill read the third time and passed.

Public Trustee and Executor Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Mr. Slack (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) 1505

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> " In page 1, line 26, at end, to insert the words ' Notice of any proposed appointment of the public trustee either as a new or additional trustee shall be given to all persons beneficially interested who are resident in the United Kingdom and whose addresses are known to the persons proposing to make the appointment or applying to the Court for that purpose or if such beneficiaries are infants to their guardians.' " —(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

The Solicitor-General (*Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University*) 1505
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 1506
Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 1506

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Charles McArthur (*Liverpool, Exchange*) 1507

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> " In page 2, line 5, at the end, to insert the words, ' If in the execution of any trust any discretion is vested in the public trustee the Court may upon the application of any person interested under the instrument creating the trust or otherwise direct in what manner such discretion shall be exercised.' "—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Sir Edward Carson 1507
Mr. Butcher (*York*) 1508
Sir F. Dixon-Hartland (*Middlesex, Uxbridge*) 1508
Mr. Cripps (*Lancashire, Stretford*) 1509
Sir James Joicey (*Durham, Chester-le-Street*) 1509
Sir Robert Reid 1510
Sir Albert Rollit 1510
Mr. Lawson Walton (*Leeds, S.*) 1511
Mr. Stuart Wortley 1511

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. H. D. Greene (*Shrewsbury*) 1512

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> " In page 2, line 6, to leave out Sub-section 3."—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir Edward Carson 1512

Question put and negatived.

July 7.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 12, at the end, to add the words, 'Provided that this section shall only apply to the will of a person dying, or to a settlement or other instrument executed after the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Edward Carson 1513

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 13, to leave out the words, 'general order' and insert the word 'rule.'"—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Sir A. Helder (*Whitehaven*) 1513

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 16, after the word 'administration,' to insert the words 'subject to the right of the next of kin or any person thereunto now by law entitled to a grant of administration.'"—(*Sir Augustus Helder.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Edward Carson 1513

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 22, at the end, to insert the words 'and that as between the public trustee and the widower, widow, or next of kin of the deceased, the widower, widow, or next of kin shall be preferred, unless for good cause shown to the contrary.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Charles McArthur 1514

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 5, to leave out the words 'fraud or negligence' and insert the words 'act or omission'—(*Mr. Charles McArthur*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir Edward Carson 1514
Mr. Charles McArthur 1514
Sir M. Hicks-Beach 1514
Sir Edward Carson 1515

Amendment ruled out of Order.

Mr. Butcher .. 1516
Mr. Cripps .. 1516

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words 'act or.'"

Question proposed, "That the words 'act or' stand part of the Bill."

Sir Albert Rollit .. 1516
Sir James Joicey .. 1517
Sir F. Dixon-Hartland .. 1518
Mr. George Faber (York) .. 1518
Sir Edward Carson .. 1518

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 12, to leave out Sub-section (2).'"—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Charles McArthur .. 1519

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 21, at the end, to insert the words 'Provided that no fees shall be charged in respect of the income arising from the investments of any trust fund or trust estate which can be remitted under written directions from the person or company or corporation liable to pay the same direct to the usufructuary or to any person or persons or bank or to any other destination to or which he is authorised to direct the same to be paid, remitted, or sent.'"—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Edward Carson .. 1520
Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) .. 1520

Question put and negatived.

Sir William Tomlinson .. 1520

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 24, after the first word 'paid' to insert the words 'including if required a preliminary fee for investigating the particulars of the trust or executorship proposed to be vested in the public trustee.'" —(*Sir William Tomlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Edward Carson .. 1521

Question put and negatived.

Sir Edward Carson 1521

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 3, line 29, at the end, to insert the words '(4) The fees under this section shall be arranged from time to time so as to produce an annual amount sufficient to discharge the salaries and other expenses incidental to the working of this Act (including such sum as the Treasury may from time to time determine to be required to insure the Consolidated Fund against loss under this Act), and no more.' "—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir James Joicey 1521
Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth) 1522
Mr. Stuart Wortley 1522
Mr. George Faber 1522
Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple) 1523
Sir Albert Rollit 1523
Colonel Pilkington 1524
Mr. Edmund Faber (Hants, Andover) 1524

Question put.

Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. Crooks were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, Mr. Speaker declared the Ayes had it.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 3, to leave out Clause 7."—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Sir Edward Carson 1524

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 4, line 12, at the end, to insert the words 'but he shall not decline to accept any trust on the ground only of the small value of the trust property.' "—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir Joseph Dimsdale (London) 1524
Mr. Gibson Bowles 1524
Mr. George Faber 1525
Sir James Joicey 1525
Sir Edward Carson 1526

Question put.

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The House divided :—Ayes, 180 ; Noes, 32. (Division List No. 253.)

And, it being after half-past Five of the clock, Further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Monday next.

Medical Act (1886) Amendment Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 1527

NEW BILLS.

Rural District Councils (Compensation).—Bill to make better provision for the Compensation of Rural District Councils in respect of loss occasioned by an alteration of the area or boundaries of their districts, ordered to be brought in by Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Yerburgh 1528

Rural District Councils (Compensation) Bill.—" To make better provision for the Compensation of Rural District Councils in respect of loss occasioned by an alteration of the area or boundaries of their districts," presented accordingly and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, 28th July, and to be printed. [Bill 263.] 1529

Trade Mark Bills.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Select Committee, with special Report and Minutes of Evidence. Report and Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 231.]

Bill, as amended, recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House for Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 264.] 1529

Message from the Lords.

That they have agreed to—Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill ; Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.

Amendments to—Hythe Corporation Bill [Lords] ; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act for conferring further powers on the Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company. Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [Lords]... .. 1529

Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [Lords].—Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1530

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at twenty minites before Six o'clock till Monday next.

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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SIXTH SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 26th June, 1905.

SAT FIRST.

The Lord Harlech sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Midland Railway ; North-Eastern Railway ; Worcestershire County Council (Bridges) ; Bootle Corporation ; Caledonian Railway.

Also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4).

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with :—Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway ; London County Council (General Powers).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

North-Eastern Railway Bill. Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill ; Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill. Examiner's Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Friday next.

Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [H.L.]. Committed.

Andover Lighting and Power Bill. The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 22nd of May last and the 8th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

Skegness Water Bill. Read 2a, and committed.

Bolton Corporation Bill; North-Eastern Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill. Read 2a, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.]. Read 2a.

Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [H.L.]; Central Electric Supply Bill [H.L.]. Read 3a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [H.L.]. Read 3a. Amendments made. Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Humber Conservancy Bill [H.L.]. Read 3a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

London United Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill. Read 3a, and passed.

Great Northern Railway Bill. Read 3a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Highland Railway Bill. Read 3a, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

North British Railway (General Powers) Bill; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1a; and referred to the Examiners.

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendment. The said Amendment considered, and agreed to.

Clacton Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Dearne Valley Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Croydon Corporation Bill; Stockport Corporation Bill; Birmingham Corporation Bill; Brentwood Gas Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Donovan's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Message from the Commons for copy of the Minutes of Evidence taken before the House; together with the proceedings and the documents deposited in the Cases. Ordered to be communicated with a request that they may be returned.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª To-morrow.

Municipal Corporations (Merthyr Tydfil Scheme Confirmation) Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered (according to order), and agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [H.L.]. Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6)

Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

PETITION.

LICENSED HOUSES.

Petition for earlier closing of; of persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI., viz.;

Churches (Scotland) Bill. Return of extracts from Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, relating to the Church of Scotland, passed in the years 1690, 1693, and 1707, showing the repeals in the Acts of 1693 and 1707 proposed by the Churches (Scotland) Bill. (June 9.)

TRADE REPORTS.

I. (Annual Series)—

No. 3398. United States (Philadelphia).

No. 3399. Austria-Hungary. (June 9.)

No. 3400. Guatemala (Quezaltenango).

No. 3401. United States (New Orleans).

No. 3402. Germany (Grand Duchy of Baden).

No. 3403. Netherlands (Java). (June 14.)

No. 3404. Denmark (Faroe Islands). (June 15.)

No. 3405. Japan (North Formosa). (June 16.)

No. 3406. Western Pacific (Friendly Islands).

No. 3407. Corea. (June 17.)

No. 3408. Persia (the Persian Gulf).

No. 3409. France (Lyons, St. Etienne and Grenoble). (June 20.)

No. 3410. Turkey (Palestine).

No. 3411. Spain (Galicia, Asturias, and Leon).

No. 3412. Sweden (Stockholm and the Eastern Coast of Sweden).

No. 3413. France (Dunkirk). (June 21.)

No. 3414. Spain (Cadiz).

No. 3415. Muskat. (June 23.)

No. 3416. Italy (Central Italy).

No. 3417. Austria - Hungary (Fiume). (June 24.)

II. Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest (with Appendix), 1904. (June 21.)

Factory and Workshop. Annual Report of the chief inspector of factories and workshops, for the year 1904. Part I. Reports. (June 14.)

Historical Manuscripts (Royal Commission). Report on manuscripts of the Earl of Egmont. Vol. I., Part II. (June 14.)

Colonies (Annual)—

No. 448. St. Helena (Report for 1904). (June 14.)

No. 449. Falkland Islands (Report for 1904). (June 21.)

Commercial, No. 3 (1905). International Sugar Commission (Spring Session, 1905). Report of British delegate and correspondence (in continuation of "Commercial, No. 1 (1905)," [Cd. 2349]). (June 14.)

London Unemployed Fund. Preliminary statement (as on the 14th of April, 1905), prepared at the request of the President of the Local Government Board by the Central Executive Committee. (June 14.)

Treaty Series—

No. 16 (1905). Convention between the United Kingdom and Switzerland supplementing Article XVIII. of the Treaty of Extradition of 26th November, 1880; signed at London, 29th June, 1904. (June 15.)

No. 17 (1905). Industrial Property Convention. Accession of New Zealand to the additional Act of 14th December, 1900; and Accession of Ceylon to the Convention of 1883, as modified by the additional Act of 14th December, 1900. (June 24.)

Education (Scotland). Thirty-second annual Report by the Accountant for Scotland to the Scotch Education Department. (June 15.)

Board of Education—

I. (Training College Regulations). Regulations for the training of teachers and for the examination of students in training colleges. (June 16.)

II. (Regulations for Evening Schools, etc.). Regulations for evening schools, technical institutions, and schools of art and art classes (from 1st August, 1905, to 31st July, 1906). (June 20.)

III. (Amending Order, No. 2). Order amending Final Order, No. 1130, made under Section 11 (8) of the Education Act, 1902.

IV. (Code for Public Elementary Schools (1905)). Code of regulations for public elementary schools, with schedules, 1905. (June 22.)

Salvation Army Colonies. Report on the Salvation Army Colonies in the United States and at Hadleigh, England, with scheme of National Land Settlement, by Commissioner H. Rider Haggard. (June 17.)

India (Army Administration). Correspondence regarding the administration of the Army in India. (June 20.)

Navy (Hydrographer's Report). Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1904, by the Hydrographer. (June 21.)

Navy Estimates, 1904-1905 (Programme of Shipbuilding, Reconstruction, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.). Statement showing the probable effect on the programme due to reappropriation of cash provision, etc. (June 21.)

Railway Accidents. Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st December, 1904, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), together with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade, upon certain accidents which were inquired into. Part II. Reports on Accidents. (June 21.)

Income-Tax Committee. Appendix to the Report of the Departmental Committee on Income-Tax; with minutes of evidence taken before the Committee. (June 21.)

Intermediate Education Board (Ireland). Annual Report for the year 1904. (June 22.)

Mint. Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint, 1904. (June 23.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FRUIT CULTURE.

Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to inquire into and report upon the fruit industry of Great Britain; with Minute appointing the Committee.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 TO 1900.

Report of the inspector under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1900, for the year 1904.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3418. Portugal (North Portugal).

No. 3419. United States (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho).

No. 3420. Persia (Kermanshah).

No. 3421. China (Pakhoi).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

COUNTY COURTS.

County Court rules, 1905.

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Return of all loans raised in India chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended the 31st March, 1905, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, etc.

FINES, ETC. (IRELAND).

Abstract of account of fines accounted for by the registrar of petty sessions clerks, for the year 1903.

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1865.

Accounts of receipts and expenditure under the Act, for the year 1904.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland:—

1. Determining the maximum number of centre superintendents to be appointed for the examinations of 1905.

2. Constituting an additional centre of examination at Newtownbarry for 1905.

3. Appointing the places at which the examinations for 1905 shall be held.

POLLING DISTRICTS.

(County Borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne)—Order made by the county council of the county borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, dividing certain wards of the borough into polling districts.

(Borough of Birkenhead).—Order made by the council of the borough of Birkenhead re-dividing the borough into polling districts.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

Charter of the incorporation of the borough of Merthyr Tydfil, dated 6th June, 1905.

FINANCE.

Finance accounts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the financial year ended 31st March, 1905.

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.

List of all pensions granted during the year ended 31st March, 1905, and payable under the provisions of Section 9 (1) of the Civil List Act, 1901.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

I. Return showing, up to 31st March, 1904:—

The amount of Consolidated Stock.

The application of the money raised by such stock.

The sums carried to the Consolidated Loans Fund.

The application of the Consolidated Loans Fund.

An estimate of the expenditure of the Council for all purposes, for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

II. Return showing, up to March 31st, 1905—

All moneys raised by the Metropolitan Board of Works and the Council since the passing of the Act for the purposes mentioned in the Act.

Particulars in relation to every parish, district, union, or place in respect whereof a loan has been obtained from the Metropolitan Board of Works or the Council since the passing of the Act.

LOCAL LOANS FUND.

Accounts of receipts and payments by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, in respect of the capital and income of the Local Loans Fund, for the year ended March 31st, 1904; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (PROCEEDINGS).

Report by the Board of Trade respecting the applications to and proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year.

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.

Account of receipts and payments under the Act during the year ended March 31st, 1905.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853 TO 1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCES).

Licence granted by His Majesty to Elizabeth Marie Mantle, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, Hackney.

Licence granted by His Majesty to Maria Yates, convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, Finchley.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statute made by the Governing Body of Balliol College, Oxford, on the 23rd of November, 1904, amending Statute IV. and Schedule B. of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on the 11th of March, 1905, to amend the Ordinance regulating the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowships.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 108.)

RICHMOND BRIDGE.

Accounts of the Commissioners of Richmond Bridge for the years ended December 31st, 1903, and December 31st, 1904. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (ALIENS) BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, when on the last occasion I introduced to your Lordships a Bill similar to the present one, it was characterised by my noble friend opposing on behalf of the Government as an "old friend," and therefore, after such a kindly recognition on his part, I never imagined it would receive such rude treatment. As I never forsake "old friends," and as every day this particular one grows in my affection, and, as far as I am led to believe, in that of the British public, I am once more introducing it. Though I would not expect it from the Board of Trade, I am sure your Lordships will give me an unbiassed and unprejudiced hearing, weighing the pros and cons, and deciding on its merits the fact whether British territory shall be entrusted to and governed by an alien. I have the authority of the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that a British ship is British territory. What is more, it is the one part of British territory upon which all the other parts are supremely dependent. It is the part which welds together the whole fabric of the British Empire. As Froude has written—

> "Take away the merchant fleet, take away the Navy that guards it, and the Empire will come to an end. Her Colonies will fall off like leaves from a withered tree. and Britain will become once more an insignificant island in the North Sea, for the future students in Australia and New Zealand Universities to discuss the fate of in their debating societies."

These remarks may occur to your Lordships as merely platitudes, but they are platitudes which cannot be driven home too forcibly or too frequently. If we agree with them we have no recourse but to admit that the efficiency and prosperity of our merchant service should be our first consideration. But, for divers reasons, it is our last. We are content to be assured of its prosperity and of its paramountcy, and to shut our eyes to the unpleasant facts in connection with it which sooner or later will require drastic treatment.

At the present moment the Government are piloting through Parliament a Bill bearing a similar short title to this one, which seeks to prevent undesirable aliens from establishing a footing in this country. But surely the place where an alien is least desirable is in command of, or as an officer in, a British ship. Yet such is the inconsistency of the Government that in opposing my Bill—which I presume will be the case—they will take away with their left hand what they give with their right. Lest your Lordships may consider that I am trying to advance this Bill by the invention of bold assertions, I would quote from a speech in another place in February, 1900, by the then President of the Board of Trade, who delivered himself as follows—

> "Take, for instance, the question of a war —the question of a war where the Naval Reserves were called out—that would be to deplete

British ships of British seamen, and instead of being partially manned by foreigners they would, under existing circumstances, be altogether manned by foreigners. That, I think, is matter for very great regret, and if any suggestion can be made to remedy that state of things, or to endeavour to remedy that state of things, which the whole House regrets, then the House would do wrong not to consider any suggestion that might be made."

One would have thought that after such a statement the country would have realised the danger, and that remedial measures would have been promptly taken. But though it was made five years ago the nation has pursued the even tenor of its way, with the natural result that the position is growing worse and worse.

It is no use proclaiming that the canker is eating more and more into our vitals; it is of no avail to launch schemes to combat the evil and then abandon them; what is wanted is a determined effort, which will allow no resistance to stand in its way, in dealing with the question in such a manner as will abandon sentiment for the more practical methods of the law. The invention of schemes for encouraging British boys to go to sea and keep them there is a very favourite hobby now-a-days. But most of them, if not all, are quite beside the point. Once make the conditions of a seaman's life worth living, and there will be no lack of men. But all these pet schemes avoid the real source of difficulty, and their only possible result is to increase the supply of officers, who are already plentiful in number. There is, however, a disposition in official quarters to eventuate some British boy-sailor scheme, and I may say that by this Bill I am giving an opportunity which is calculated more than anything to bring such a scheme to a successful issue. It is indeed a fatuous policy to talk of patriotism, and to instil all its noble ideals into British youths, only for them to find that as British boy-sailors the language which is least known, or understood, on board their ships is their own mother tongue. They find aliens as their captains, their officers, and their petty officers. Can there be any wonder that they quickly realise that they have been befooled, and throw up in disgust an avocation which appealed so strongly, before they had any practical knowledge of it, to their enthusiasm and patriotism?

I do not wish to infer for one moment that this Bill solves, once and for all, a gigantic problem, but I do contend that it goes far in affording the means to that end. Were the time opportune, or were it within the bounds of practical politics, the scope of this Bill as it affects the crews of British ships would be much larger. But there is reason in all things, and I am one of the last to hamper the British shipowner unless I have full and complete justification for so doing. Our merchant service is now in that unfortunate position where the foreigner can only be displaced step by step without placing undue and unfair disadvantage on the British shipowner. This Bill, if your Lordships choose to endorse it, provides the first step. It commences at the fountain-head, for the attainment of an ultimate officer's or captain's position in a British ship is the greatest inducement we can possibly offer to the foreigner to serve in our ships.

The Bill will establish a principle of enormous importance, and its adoption will not affect the interests of the shipowner. I am, I trust, not unreasonable in asking the Legislature to sanction such a principle, especially when I know that, since I first advocated it, the Government have themselves come to my way of thinking and have stipulated for it in their agreements with the Atlantic Combine and the Cunard Line, and also in charters granted to the Peninsular and Oriental Line and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. If they are so anxious that the vessels of these companies should be commanded and officered by British subjects, I do not see how in common sense they can oppose this Bill, which has exactly the same end in view.

During the last debate on the Bill I was accused of trying to establish a close corporation of British officers. Though I do not like to see foreigners taking the bread out of the mouths of British officers, yet such a statement is ridiculous to anyone who chooses to acquaint himself with the circumstances. Furthermore, a still more serious charge was levelled at me. It was that I was guilty of inaccuracies. Were this correct it would be ample justification for your Lordships' hesitancy in supporting the Bill, and might very possibly account for its rejection. In my Memorandum I stated that—

> "All the other leading maritime Powers restrict the commanding and officering of their merchant ships to their own subjects."

The representative of the Board of Trade, in opposing the Bill, said he found on inquiry that this was not the case in Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Chili, or Ecuador. I did not know before that in the eyes of the Board of Trade Chili or Ecuador, for instance, were considered to be "leading maritime Powers." Dispensing with these and feeling sure of my own facts I caused inquiries to be addressed to the Consulates. Here are their replies—

> "Captains in command of German ships must be of German nationality as well as the officers, and all captains and officers must hold a German certificate."

> "Norwegian masters' and mates' certificates obtainable after passing examination in Norwegian Schools of Navigation; and for master, certificate of citizenship (as shipmaster) in Norway, consequently the difficulties of employment are considerable."

Therefore, I have just cause for complaining that the information placed in the hands of the noble Lord representing the Board of Trade at that time was misleading to your Lordships, and that the inaccuracies were committed by the Board of Trade and not by me.

I will, with your Lordships' permission, once again give the position which other maritime Powers adopt as regards the nationality of their merchant captains and officers. I have the information from representatives of these Powers, and it cannot be refuted. I find that, in the United States, all officers of vessels having charge of a watch, including pilots, shall in all cases be citizens of the United States. In Sweden the master and mate must be Swedish subjects. In Norway the master and mate must be qualified by Norwegian examinations and legitimations in every other respect. In France, merchant vessels must be commanded and officered by French subjects. In Greece a similar law is in force. In the Argentine Republic their merchant vessels must be commanded by an Argentine subject, or carry an Argentine flag captain. In Austria-Hungary the captain and mate must be subjects of Austria or Hungary. In Spain the captain and officers must be Spanish subjects. In Germany, as I have said before, merchant ships must be commanded and officered by German subjects. Russia and Italy also have restrictions regarding the character and nationality of their merchant captains and officers; also I understand that on September 1st last a new law came into force in the Netherlands whereby their merchant captains and officers must be of Dutch nationality. We are set a very fine example, too, by New Zealand, where every applicant for examination, whether master, mate, or engineer, must be a British subject.

As showing how British captains and officers suffer under such conditions, the Merchant Service Guild have drawn my attention to the following extract from the Report of the Subsidies Committee. Referring to the substitution of foreign officers and crews for British crews, the Committee says—

> "The report of the North German Lloyd Company for 1900 gives a striking instance: 'When we bought the steamers of the Scottish Oriental Steamship Company and Holt's East Indian Ocean Steamship Company the whole of the steamers were carrying exclusively English captains, officers, and engineers. At the time of our taking over the two lines the Englishmen on board consisted of twenty-four captains, forty-eight officers, and seventy-two engineers. Of these we have already replaced sixteen captains, forty-three officers, and fifty-eight engineers by Germans, so that at present there are still on board, of Englishmen, only eight captains, five officers, and fourteen engineers, whom, however, we also hope shortly to replace.'"

And I may tell your Lordships that very shortly after this Report was issued the remaining British subjects were discharged. The unfortunate Britishers were perforce compelled to start at the bottom of the ladder elsewhere.

So far as I have been able to judge, the main objection which the Government hitherto entertained against the Bill was that, somehow or other, it savoured of protection. I hope they still look upon it in the same light, for, having made a complete change of front in their policy since my former Bill was defeated, they should sympathise with and support this one. I cannot see how this Bill, restricting the command and officering of our merchant ships, can be different from the same restrictions in the Royal Navy. I emphasise in the strongest way that neither free trade nor protection can enter into the question of the safety and defence of our country, for the enormous proportion of aliens in our merchant service is, I trust, generally recognised as a menace to our country. As an ex-President of the Board of Trade has stated, if we were engaged in war and the Reserves were called out, our merchant ships would be altogether manned by foreigners. I would like to know whether the National Defence Committee view such a situation with complacence? In the year 1896 the Manning Committee reported—

> "However undesirable it may be that British sailors should thus be ousted by foreigners from British ships, and however dangerous this change may prove to the State in time of war, the fact must be recognised that the existing unrestricted admission of foreigners and Lascars may eventually result in further diminishing, outside of the Royal Navy, the number of British seamen."

Their prognostication has proved correct; alien seamen are increasing, and the danger to the State is greater still. What have the National Defence Committee to say to this? Not to speak of 41,000 Lascars, I find that no fewer than 40,396 aliens are enjoying the hospitality of British ships. Their percentage in British ships has swollen to 22·9. But a little analysis discloses a still more astonishing state of affairs. We must have regard to the fact that the crews of most of the large lines are almost wholly composed of Britishers. Therefore so many the less for "tramp" steamers—which constitute 80 per cent. of our shipping trade—and sailing vessels. The actual percentage of aliens in "tramp" steamers may be safely assumed to be over 50 per cent., whilst I have it from official Returns that over half the men employed in British sailing ships are foreigners. Consequently the evil has grown so great that it can only be removed gradually and with caution. This is why I ask Parliament to proceed mildly at first, and to pass a Bill which asserts a principle but which will not conflict with the interests of British shipowners.

In ordinary British trading vessels the number of alien captains and officers, according to the latest Returns, is 511, and in fishing vessels forty-eight alien skippers and thirty-five mates. I shall no doubt be informed that the number of alien captains and officers is decreasing. I do not deny it; but I may say that the number of petty officers—who most probably are aspiring to the higher grades—is increasing, for I find that they number 2,991. Furthermore, a most pernicious practice has lately come into vogue of carrying foreign boys as apprentices of British sailing ships. It is still more probable that, after four years service, they will obtain British certificates in order to get the higher pay in British ships, and thus cause a prolific supply of alien officers. But mere numbers are as nothing compared to the fact that by allowing alien captains and officers in our ships we are demoralising the whole merchant service, and, at the same time, offering the highest inducements to other than our countrymen.

I have stated that the Government themselves have acted upon the principle of this Bill in agreements with large British lines. I think that I am also right in saying that the Admiralty stipulate for British captains and officers in merchant transports. The Steamship Subsidies Committee, in Paragraph 26 of their Report, say—

> "Importance is attached to the manning of ships by national officers and crews in Germany, Russia, Italy, and Japan; and the British Admiralty hold that no postal or other contract should be given unless all captains and officers are British subjects and a certain proportion of the men, while British-born apprentices and boys should be carried according to the size of the ship. This is also the opinion of your Committee."

and at a later stage they say—

> "The British Admiralty point out that it is apparent that if this question of nationality is not recognised in time, British vessels, whenever the occasion for their use by the Admiralty arises, will be extensively manned by foreigners, who would have to be largely, if not entirely, replaced by British subjects on the outbreak of war."

How are they going to get these British subjects? Only by taking them from the "tramps" and sailing ships, leaving the country to depend on vessels manned by foreigners for its food supply. The

Steamship Subsidies Committee said that on subsidised vessels the captain, officers, and a portion of the crew ought to be British subjects.

Another point which merits your Lordships' most serious consideration, and particularly the attention of the First Lord of the Admiralty, who I regret is not in his place to-day, is the official intimation to merchant captains that, in the event of relations becoming strained between this country and any naval Power, they will be furnished with a confidential Report showing the ports in the United Kingdom and His Majesty's possessions abroad which are defended by means of mines or batteries. There is absolutely nothing at present which would prevent these confidential Reports being placed in all innocence in the hands of alien captains of our ships. I should like to know what the National Defence Committee would think of this? I know very well what the verdict of the British public would be.

It is observable from time to time that, in naval circles, cold water is poured upon the idea that the merchant service is of any avail as a Naval Reserve. I am not proposing to go to the length of arguing the point, for it is manifestly ridiculous. We found that during the Boer War the merchant service was beyond criticism. Without it we should have been hopelessly beaten. As a reserve for the Navy it is indispensable. The Naval Reserves Committee reported that—

> "The Committee do not overlook the importance, both as regards naval and other considerations, of securing that as large a proportion as possible of the crews of merchant ships shall be of British nationality."

and that—

> "The mercantile marine is, and should continue to be, a valuable source from which to draw a portion of the Naval Reserve."

Further, that—

> "The present mode of supplying a reserve of executive officers is satisfactory, except that a weeding of the list of Royal Naval Reserve officers and an extension of numbers are required."

The section of the Bill relating to aliens being granted British pilotage certificates I will only touch on briefly. My noble friend Lord Ellenborough will deal more fully with that portion of the Bill. This subject has been brought into great prominence of late years. By granting these certificates to aliens we are committing an egregious blunder and manufacturing a whip for our own backs in days to come. These alien pilots are increasing; they enable foreign shipowners to compete with us on advantageous terms whilst, at the same time, they rob British pilots of their birthright.

I regret having trespassed on your Lordships' forbearance so long. I must plead the vast importance of the principle underlying this measure. I have received a letter from the Merchant Service Guild—to whom I am indebted for much useful information on the matter—expressing their fervent hope that your Lordships will extend your support on this occasion. Those of your Lordships who have come into contact with the crews of average cargo vessels will know how desperate is the situation. It is in the interests of the Empire that I speak, that I introduce this Bill. Pass it and you will be acclaimed by public opinion, Reject it, and you will create further blank despair in the heart of the British seaman, and still leave a blot on the fair fame of our Red Ensign—a flag which means so much to us as a nation.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}"—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: My Lords, if the officers and seamen of the mercantile marine were represented in the House of Commons by bodies as powerful as the Shipowners' Parliamentary Committee, Bills for improvement in the housing and provisioning on board ship would have been passed long ago, and the proportion of *bonâ fide* British officers and seamen would have been increased in consequence. The officers and men of the mercantile marine are so much at sea, that they have, even if married men with houses of their own, very few opportunities of voting. The fact that they are practically unrepresented in another place gives them, therefore, an additional claim to have their interests carefully considered in this House. In all other industries of equal importance the actual workers have a large voting power; in many cases greater than that of their employers.

There are, and constantly have been, a number of ships that have nothing British about them except the flag. Many years ago, during the Civil War in America, complaints were made by the Americans of the North that all their commerce was forced to shelter itself under the British flag by Confederate cruisers. But what really happened? American vessels with American officers and crews, entered a British harbour, generally a colonial one, went through a few formalities, painted out the name of the port and put in an English one instead. The owners, officers, and crews remained American. Some New Yorkers, to save paint I suppose, went to New Brunswick and painted in the word "Brunswick" instead of "York." When I was off the Rio Grande in 1864, I boarded numbers of these so-called British vessels, and the first question always put to me was, "Have our armies got to Richmond yet?" Returns show that in consequence of this change of flag British commerce flourished at the expense of that of America, though what benefit England or Englishmen ever derived from this change of flag I am at a loss to imagine. I look upon the Returns of British shipping as very fallacious, as it is hard to know what proportion of vessels under our flag are really British.

In war time there might be grave disadvantages in having foreign officers in command of British ships. For instance, during the Ashantee affair in 1873, it fell to my lot to board some British vessels which were selling arms and ammunition to natives. I had a suspicion that they might resume this trade in my absence, so I cautioned the crews, who were nearly all British, that not only would the ship be seized and confiscated, but that all the British on board would be held individually responsible, tried for aiding and abetting the Queen's enemies, and kept in Cape Coast Castle until their trial could commence. Cape Coast Castle, unfortunately, has not the reputation of being a particularly healthy spot, and I have every reason to believe that no arms or ammunition were sold in my absence. But had these vessels been officered and manned by foreigners such a caution would have been useless, as they would not have been liable to any penalty. The captain and the second in command of a British ship ought always to be British subjects.

As regards alien pilots, there is undoubted danger in allowing a number of foreigners to exercise their profession on our coasts to the exclusion of our own seamen. In 1888, before the Select Committee on Pilotage, some naval officers gave evidence minimising the danger arising from that source. But quite recently Admirals Sir Edmund Fremantle and Sir Nathaniel Bowden-Smith expressed a contrary opinion at a discussion at the Royal United Service Institution. Two years ago Admiral Lord Charles Beresford wrote that—

> "The granting to foreigners of British pilotage certificates is a glaring injustice to British pilots, and I consider it a great danger to the country in time of war."

Since 1888, moreover, naval methods of warfare have altered, and the number of foreign pilots has greatly increased. There are now no less than fifty-nine foreign pilots licensed for the Thames alone. One of the naval witnesses in 1888, in answer to Question 10,849, said—

> "The navigation of vessels simply by the use of pilots is to facilitate it; not that the captain could not navigate by extra care and extra time without a pilot. It is simply to save time and facilitate matters."

Now, why on earth should time be saved and matters facilitated for an enemy's ship at the entrance to the Thames? And in answer to Question 10,856 the same witness said—

> "The foreigner is so much the better, certainly, for his knowledge. I freely admit that."

Since 1888, moreover, men-of-war have nearly doubled their rate of speed, and have greatly increased the effective range and rate of firing of their guns. They have also increased the range of their torpedoes. In naval warfare ten minutes is now of greater importance than half-an-hour was then. We cannot afford to give away any chances in war time, however small they may be.

When a similar Bill came before this House two years ago it was said that a sharp and intelligent sailor, who frequently entered a port, would, with the help of charts and sailing directions, soon pick up such a knowledge of the pilotage as would enable him to enter any port without a pilot. So he would; but in fine weather only. In thick weather he would either have to anchor or to risk running on shore, and thick weather is the only weather in which an enemy would dare to prowl about the entrances to our harbours for the purpose of laying mines or using torpedoes. I know the Thames now a great deal better than when I retired from the service, and I am quite certain that a pilot who had actually piloted a ship would have a great advantage over one who had merely looked on. A man cannot learn to drive a coach as well as the driver by merely sitting on the box seat. If a coach came to a sharp turn on a greasy road impeded by traffic at the bottom of a steep hill, I am sure that the passengers would sooner have an experienced coachman on the box than a man who was holding the reins for the first time.

I suggest that this part of the Bill should be made even stronger. I would not allow a certificate to be granted to any pilot who had not been naturalised before attaining the age of one-and-twenty, as I think that men would become naturalised for the purpose of evading the Act, and that after one-and-twenty it is too late for a man to change the feelings and sympathies implanted in early life. The only advantage to be derived from the naturalisation of the alien pilot is that if captured he would be liable to be tried for high treason. But as he would probably be on board the enemy's man-of-war under a false name, it is not likely that he would ever be identified. It has been objected that this is trades-union legislation. There are many methods of trades unions that I strongly object to, but I have never heard of the Pilots' Association being accused of any of them, and the Pilots' Association desire to see this Bill passed.

In this case the interests of the nation, and those of the pilots are coincident. The last Select Committee on Pilotage sat in 1888, and it is therefore quite time that many of the questions connected with pilotage should be reconsidered. Besides, there is no reciprocity in this matter. Mr. Langdon, secretary of the United Kingdom Pilotage Association, has written to me saying that Marseilles is the only Continental port where a British pilot can be licensed, but that this indulgence is so surrounded by conditions that no shipmaster has hitherto attempted to obtain a certificate. Objections may be made to some details in the Bill, but I think that they could be dealt with satisfactorily when in Committee; and I hope that the Government will reconsider their intention to oppose the Second Reading of this Bill, and that some portions of it, especially that dealing with alien pilots, may become law this session.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, in the absence of the noble Marquess who presides over the Board of Trade I have been requested to reply upon this Bill. I may say at once that His Majesty's Government cannot accept the Bill and intend to oppose it. The noble Lord who has introduced the Bill has by no means exaggerated the importance of the subject to which he has drawn attention. What is really intended by the Bill is the reimposition of the Navigation Laws, of which this is the first instalment. When the Navigation Laws were first imposed they certainly did what the noble Lord desires to do—namely, to restrict the choice of officers and seamen to British subjects. From time to time came remonstrances from representative chambers of commerce in those days and the Legislature gradually relaxed the stringency of those laws. The mercantile marine were constantly petitioning against the restrictions placed in their way, and during the reign of George III. and for some time afterwards those restrictions were gradually diminished until 1854, when they were swept away. The law was reconsidered, consolidated, and affirmed in 1894, and I cannot help observing that it is a bold endeavour by a Bill of this kind to reverse a policy which has endured for so many years, and the grounds on which that reversal is advocated are, I think, altogether insufficient.

I notice that in the Memorandum which the noble Lord has attached to his Bill he makes this statement—

> "Under the present system British registered ships may be, and are, owned, commanded, and manned entirely by foreigners."

If not absolutely inaccurate that statement is very misleading. The only case in which British ships may be entirely owned by foreigners is in the case of a corporation, which, however, must have its principal place of business in this country or in some dominion of His Majesty. It may be the case that some of these corporations man their ships with foreigners, but there are no means of exactly telling to what extent that is done. The statement is not absolutely accurate as it stands, and it is certainly misleading. Of course, a question of this kind, so wide and important in its bearings and altering the whole policy of a statute which extends to 550 sections and has twenty-two schedules, can only be taken up by the Government of the day.

I do not deny that the questions that have been raised are very important ones. deserving of serious consideration. With regard to the pilotage question, that has been considered by the Admiralty, who in May, 1903, made this statement—

> "I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to point out that the total number of alien pilots for ports in England is only eight-seven out of a total of 4,000; that a smart seaman commanding a foreign merchant vessel, which may frequently trade to any port of the United Kingdom, could not fail to learn the navigation of that port; and that the existence of good charts of the approaches to all British ports renders a navigator largely independent of pilotage. For these reasons their Lordships cannot but consider the danger referred to was overestimated by the deputation, but they do not wish to be understood as holding the opinion that an increase in the number of alien pilots is in itself at all desirable."

So much for the pilotage question. With reference to the proportion of alien captains in our merchant ships, I have in my hand a Parliamentary Return which shows that in the year 1891 the total number of masters was 4,465, of whom 158 were foreigners; in 1896, the total number of masters was 4,301, of whom 145 were foreigners; and in 1901, the masters numbered 3,792, of whom eighty-seven only were foreigners. The percentage of foreign masters was, therefore, in 1891, 3·5 per cent.; in 1896, 3·4 per cent; and in 1901, 2·3 per cent only. With regard to sailors, I find that in 1891 the total number was 37,103, and of that number 12,715 were foreigners. In 1896 the total number of sailors employed was 34,357, and of that number 13,594 were foreigners. I think these figures are sufficient to show that the noble Lord has very much exaggerated what he appears to regard as a great danger to the State.

I do not propose to argue the whole question of the Navigation Laws over again. The only observation I would make on the subject is this, that if you reverse what has been the deliberate policy of the Legislature for so many years you must reverse that policy in its entirety or not at all. While shipowners were under the old laws, restricted in their choice of men to man their ships, they had considerable privileges given to them that ensured for them the trade which it was important they should possess; but now the suggestion is made that without those privileges you are to restrict them in the matter of the employment of officers and men. If there is one industry in this country to which people can point as being a successful and important industry and with which it would certainly be rash to meddle it is the shipping industry; yet it is with that industry that the noble Lord appears to think he can make an experiment. Although this Bill may be a small one in itself, the noble Lord has truly said that it involves an important question of principle, and if it is once adopted the rest will follow in natural course. In these circumstances I must invite your Lordships to reject the Bill. I accordingly move that it be read a second time this day six months.

Amendment moved—

> "To leave out the word 'now' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

THE EARL OF MEATH: My Lords, I did not intend to intervene in this debate, but I do so because I feel that this is a most important subject. I was very glad to hear from the noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack that he considers the question one of great importance to the country. I am sure I shall be expressing the feeling even of those who are on the side of the Government when I say that we are all indebted to Lord Muskerry for the way in which he has persistently, courageously, and ably advocated the cause of the British sailor. All of us are proud of the British sailor, and of the fact that it should be left to a Member of this House to take up his cause. I was very glad to gather from the remarks of the noble and learned Earl that he considers the question of the future of the Navigation Laws as a more or less open question. I for one feel very strongly indeed that it is for the Government to consider whether the old Navigation Laws cannot in some way or another, either in their entirety or piecemeal, be brought back.

The statement was made in the House of Commons that 70,000 men would be required to invade this country, and that there was not sufficient tonnage to carry that number of men across the Channel. Although it may be the fact that comparatively few British vessels are officered by foreigners and that at this moment the number of foreign sailors is not sufficiently large for us to be seriously alarmed, still, *obsta principiis*, there is no reason why these officers of foreign origin should not be increased, and the number of foreign sailors considerably augmented. I ask whether it would not be possible for some hostile Power to privately and secretly charter these vessels—vessels that are only British by the hanging of a flag from the masthead, and which are manned by foreign officers and seamen—and in that way secure the tonnage which we are informed by the Prime Minister they could not find. We have recently been very close to war with a certain Power owing to the fact that that Power had overhauled and sunk some of our steamers. In the case of the "Cheltenham," which was overhauled, there were only four British sailors on that British ship, and when the sailors of the cruiser who had overhauled the "Cheltenham" left they were cheered by the crew, who were Germans. It is a serious question whether these vessels, officered and manned to a large extent by foreigners, would not be a very serious danger to this country in time of war. I myself believe that they would, and, as a patriotic subject of the King, I say we should take every step to prevent such an event occurring. I have heard many naval men speak of the seriousness of the granting of pilotage certificates to alien pilots. There are a number of foreigners who know the intricacies of our rivers and the entrances to our ports, and it is important that we should only let those things be known to British subjects. I shall certainly support the noble Lord who moved the Second Reading of this Bill if he goes to a division.

*The DUKE OF RUTLAND: My Lords, I have no intention of entering into a discussion of the provisions of this Bill, not having that technical knowledge which would justify such an intrusion, but I do wish to make one comment on the opening sentences of the speech which we heard from the noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack. I understood him to oppose this Bill mainly on the ground that it was a serious infraction, if not an absolute reversal, of the Act passed in 1854 for the repeal of the Navigation Laws—an action which the noble and learned Earl described as being of the most deliberate character. Now, I have a very clear recollection of the circumstances attending the repeal of the Navigation Laws, and I shall never forget the scene which this House presented on the night of the Second Reading of the Bill. The debate was a long one; the greatest orators then in the House took part in it, and so far from the repeal of the Navigation Laws being a deliberate act I do not remember a Bill that was more severely and hotly contested. It was a struggle between the two great Parties in the State. There were some Members professing strong Liberal opinions who opposed that measure with the utmost vehemence, among them no less a personage than Lord Brougham. I do not think there is anything very dreadful in an attempt to alter an Act which was passed under such circumstances, and I hope your Lordships will put aside any historical reverence for the year 1854 and vote for the Second Reading of this Bill.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I should like to say one or two words in reply to the speech made by the noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack. The ways of the Government are indeed past understanding. I quoted to your Lordships their own Committees in support of my Bill, they having all been in favour of the principle of this Bill; I quoted the statement by the ex-President of the Board of Trade, who until recently was one of their colleagues, in favour of the principle; the Government themselves have adopted the principle in four cases; and the Admiralty have adopted it in every case as regards merchant transports. The noble and learned Earl says this is a small instalment of a much greater question. Well, why not take that small instalment? It does not commit the House or the nation to follow it up in any way. As to the statement of the noble and learned Earl that I am inaccurate when I say that under the present system British registered ships may be, and are, owned, commanded, and manned entirely by foreigners, I must differ from him. It is true that there is a stalking-horse put up as a British subject, but he is only a man of straw; the owners are foreigners, and also those on board. For instance, there is a Norwegian line of steamers running up the south-east coast of Africa which is owned, commanded, and manned entirely by foreigners, but which flies the British flag. I hope your Lordships will consent to the Second Reading of this Bill, if only as an experiment

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Motion," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 35; Not-Contents, 53.

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Aldenham, L.
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Bill to be read 2^{a} this day six months.

FINANCE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2a."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

*LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, before this Bill is read a second time I hope your Lordships will allow me to call your attention for a few minutes to the enormous and growing expenditure of the country, both national and municipal. As chairman of the English Bankers, and president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce for the last four years, I have had exceptional opportunities of observing how these great burdens weigh upon and injure our trade and commerce. This Bill, of course, does not deal with rates, but it is obvious that the pressure of rates is aggravated by the increase in our taxation, and the burden of the taxation by that of the rates.

Twenty years ago, in 1884, our national expenditure was £86,000,000; in 1894 it was £92,200,000; in 1904 it was no less than £154,200,000. But even this does not show the real amount. No doubt in any exact comparison various allowances would have to be made, which it would take too long to go into completely now. On the whole, moreover, they would only make the matter really worse. For instance, in 1884 the amount allocated to the National Debt was £29,650,000. In 1904 it was only £27,000,000. If we had applied as much to debt in 1904 as in 1884 our expenditure would have been even greater. Indeed, we have to add on, as Mr. Bowles has shown in a very able and convincing pamphlet, the revenue intercepted and not paid into the Exchequer which is not included in the £154,000,000, but which is really expenditure, and which last year amounted to no less than £22,600,000. In fact, the total State revenue was not £154,000,000, but in reality £176,953,000, showing an addition of over £80,000,000 in ten years. Moreover, what makes matters worse is that in spite of our heavy taxation we do not make both ends meet. It is true, no doubt, that mainly by the action of the terminable annuities we may be said to have reduced our debt in one direction by £7,600,000, but then we borrowed for Army and Navy purposes £9,800,000, so that in the year we have actually increased our National Debt by £2,238,000.

Now, how has this enormous increase arisen? The Civil Services, including education, have increased £9,500,000, and the collection of revenue £8,300,000 That the cost of the Civil Services should increase is inevitable, but the actual growth is excessive. Sir M. Hicks-Beach on more than one occasion called attention to and deplored it. The cost of collection of revenue also demands the serious attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But the most serious item of all is undoubtedly the increase in our military and naval expenditure, which has risen from £36,600,000 ten years ago to no less than £86,600,000, an increase of £50,000,000. I am glad to see that there is this year some reduction in the Naval Estimates against increases in the Army and Civil Services. As, however, we always have supplementary expenditure it is safer to take actual results.

We did not murmur at the taxation in time of war, but the present expenditure and the present income-tax in time of peace are altogether excessive. Of course it is necessary to be well armed. But assuredly the present portentous expenditure is excessive and unnecessary. We have no important question open with Russia. She is not likely to pick a quarrel, and her fleet has been seriously weakened. France is friendly; she knows that we are her best customers, and that no other nation would take her clarets and her silks. There can surely be no question of war between us and Germany. Yet we are arming as we have never armed before. In doing so we not only weaken ourselves, but incur the moral responsibility—I might say the guilt—of additional armaments in Europe.

In 1841, when our expenditure on the Army and Navy together was only £11,000,000, Sir Robert Peel thought it much too great. More recently Lord

Beaconsfield spoke of our "bloated" armaments. What epithet would he find strong enough to describe them now? In 1899 Mr. Goschen, then First Lord of the Admiralty, and speaking on behalf of the Government, threw out an important suggestion to other European States. He said—

> "We have been compelled to increase our expenditure as other nations have increased theirs, not taking the lead, not pressing on more than they. As they have increased, so we have increased. I have now to state, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, that, similarly, if the other great naval Powers should be prepared to diminish their programme of shipbuilding, we should be prepared on our side to meet such a procedure by modifying ours. The difficulties of adjustment are no doubt immense, but our desire that the Conference should succeed in lightening the tremendous burdens which now weigh down all European nations is sincere."

That was a wise and statesmanlike suggestion. Unfortunately, however, it has not been acted on.

If other countries were increasing their armaments as we are there might be some justification for the course we are adopting. But this is not so. What are the figures? In Italy the expenditure on the army has increased in ten years from 264,000,000 of lire to 296,000,000, and of the navy from 118,000,000 to 124,000,000, or, taking the two together, an increase of 37,000,000 lire–£1,500,000. In Russia the expenditure on the army has increased from 280,000,000 roubles to 343,000,000, and of the navy from 55,000,000 to 100,000,000; taken together, an increase of 107,000,000 roubles, or about £10,800,000. In Germany the expenditure on the army has risen from 618,000,000 marks to 649,000,000, and on the navy from 78,600,000 to 222,000,000, an increase of 174,000,000 marks or about £8,700,000. In France the expenditure on the army has risen in ten years from 648,000,000 francs to 726,000,000, and of the navy from 274,200,000 to 344,000,000, an increase of 149,000,000 francs or about £6,000,000.

In our own case there has been —on the Army an increase of £24,800,000, and on the Navy an increase of £25,000,000; or, taking the two together, in round figures an increase of no less than £50,000,000, of which, however, only £39,000,000 is shown in the ordinary Estimates. In other words, while Italy has increased her naval and military expenditure by £1,500,000; Russia, £10,800,000; Germany, £8,700,000; and France, £6,000,000; we have increased ours by £50,000,000. Thus these four great countries put together show an increase of £27,000,000, while ours by itself is £50,000,000, or nearly double that of Russia, Germany, France, and Italy put together. My noble friend Lord Brassey has always been a powerful advocate for a strong Navy, but regards our present force as excessive and involving the nation in intolerable burdens, and has suggested various ways in which we might effect economies.

As regards the protection of commerce at sea, not only ours, but that of the whole world, the real remedy would be the extension of the Declaration of Paris, and the placing of private property at sea on the same footing as property on land. This policy has, I understand, been now adopted by Mr. Roosevelt and the Government of the United States, who have proposed it as one of the subjects to be considered at a conference of the Powers. I trust our Government will give him their support—at least I know that the late Lord Salisbury would have done so—and I hope that France and Germany will also agree.

One result of our enormous expenditure is that we have to a considerable degree lost the elasticity and financial reserve which were so great a strength to the country. If we are spending £177,000,000, paying 1s. income-tax, and borrowing over £2,000,000 in time of peace, what is the prospect in time of war. The only way to remedy this state of things is to reduce these crushing burdens and lighten the springs of industry. Some years ago Mr. Atkinson, the eminent American economist, said—

> "The burden of national taxation and of militarism in the competing countries of Europe, all of which must come out of the annual product, is so much greater that, by comparison, the United States can make a net profit of about 5 per cent. on the entire annual product before the cost of militarism and the heavy taxes of the European competitors have been defrayed. Such is the burden of militarism, which must be removed before there can be any competition on even terms between European manufacturers and those of the United States in

supplying other continents, and in sharing in the great commerce of the world."

This was written some time ago, and matters are now far worse. The difference now probably gives manufacturers in the United States and our Colonies an advantage of something like 15 per cent. over those at home. If the United States had not, unfortunately for themselves, adopted a policy of so-called protection, and deprived themselves as far as they could of the advantage of cheap materials, it would have been almost impossible for our manufacturers to have competed with them in neutral markets.

Your Lordships, of course, have no control, and recent changes have very much weakened the House of Commons' control over national expenditure and the opportunities of enforcing economy. The proportion of permanent Votes, *i.e.* those levied under standing Acts of Parliament and not requiring to be annually voted by the House of Commons, has greatly increased. Appropriations-in-aid have much increased. These do not require a House of Commons vote. The amount for capital expenditure for works is formed by loans authorised under various Acts, once for all. In fact, so far from our annual expenditure requiring the annual sanction of the House of Commons, as I believe is still popularly supposed, a comparatively small part of it now does so. In these and other ways the power of the House of Commons over expenditure and the forces tending to economy have been fatally reduced.

Unless some serious effort is made, not only can we not hope for any reduction of taxation, but we must be prepared for an addition to our present very heavy burdens. This is a serious position, and the moral aspect of our present policy is also most grievous. Of course, my Lords, we know that we are not going to attack any foreign country. We are sincerely anxious to maintain the peace of the world. But let us suppose for a moment that France or Germany had increased their armaments as we have increased ours. What should we have said? What an outcry there would have been. We should have inevitably have felt that we must also increase our forces. If one nation raises its armaments, others follow suit, and so on. This is, in fact, not merely a British question; it is an European question. I have more than once quoted Gambetta's saying to me that if the military mania of Europe were to continue we should all end by being "beggars in front of barracks." Little did he then think, little did I think, that we should be the greatest sinners; that we, who claim to occupy a position in the front rank among civilised nations, should incur the responsibility—I had almost said the guilt—of setting so evil an example to the rest of the civilised world.

The position of Europe is most serious. Even without any war European nations will be crushed by the weight of their own armaments. A Japanese statesman is reported to have said that as long as they only sent us beautiful works of art, we looked on Japan as a semi-barbarous country; now that they have shot thousands of Russians we recognise them as a truly civilised nation. Unfortunately, we are the country which of late has taken the lead in the mad rivalry of armaments. Europe is an armed camp; we have most of the evils of war (except bloodshed) even in times of peace. In fact, it is not really peace; it is only a truce, embittered by jealousy and suspicion. Unless we retrace our steps, unless our neighbours also reduce their expenditure, it will be impossible for European manufacturers to compete with those of America and other countries.

We do not sufficiently realise what great interests the European nations, and, indeed, the whole civilised world, have in common. Moreover, the enormous increase in expenditure of recent years affects all classes, the poor perhaps even more than the rich. It has been a surprise to many that while our commerce is undoubtedly flourishing the number of those out of work last winter should have been above the average, and some of the supposed remedies are likely, I fear, to make matters worse. But that it has been above the average can hardly, I think, be doubted. It is also an unfortunate fact that pauperism is on the increase. I cannot doubt that both these unsatisfactory features are in great measure due to the increase in our national and municipal expenditure.

We ought to take these warnings seriously to heart. Being once more, happily, at peace with all the world, our policy should be to reduce expenditure, pay off debt, increase our financial reserves, and lighten the taxes which now press so heavily on the springs of industry.

*Lord WELBY: My Lords, there is great uneasiness throughout the country among financial authorities and thinking people as to the state of our finance at the present moment, not only as to its actual condition but also as to its prospects, and I am very glad that my noble friend has expressed that uneasiness to your Lordships, because his wide experience and great authority in almost every branch of finance make his remarks of particular weight both here and elsewhere, and entitle him to the serious attention, not only of your Lordships' House, but of the public generally. I venture also to think that it would be an omission of duty on the part of your Lordships' House if you were to pass without any comment whatever the Finance Bill of the present year.

The Budget of the present year is what I should call a hand-to-mouth Budget. It just provides for the current wants of this particular year, and so far it can hardly be regarded as satisfactory in presence of the enormous amount of taxation which we have to bear. In fact, my Lords, I can only describe it as a Budget of drift. We have now been three full years at peace. In the year 1903 all reasonable people would willingly have granted the Government time to reconsider the financial situation in order to place our peace expenditure again upon a sound and moderate footing, but that plea will not apply to 1904, and still less will it apply to 1905. Here in 1905—three years after the establishment of peace—we find ourselves with a load of war taxation upon us, imposed only since 1899, amounting to no less than £25,000,000 a year.

The criticism which I venture to make of His Majesty's Government is this, that with this immense weight of taxation. Budget after Budget passes without any general review of our financial position, which certainly ought to be the first duty of the Government. There has been no endeavour to lay down the lines upon which our peace expenditure should be regulated; there has been no endeavour to co-ordinate the ways and means of the country, the financial power and resources of the country, with the demands of those experts who naturally wish for large expenditure and to whom the Government appear to have given *carte blanche.* I have heard it said that much of the present embarrassment of Russia is due to certain debility of mind in the nation—a debility of mind which is represented by the expression "Nicheoo": "It is no matter; things will come all right" I ask your Lordships whether there are not some symptoms, in financial matters, of that kind of listlessness in this country—not only in the great Departments of the State, but also, I think, to a great extent in the country itself. But surely listlessness on this important branch of our policy is a fatal thing for this country. If it is bad for Russia, how much more so is it for a country which holds the commercial supremacy of the world? If this country is careless about its finance, about the taxes which weigh upon its industries and upon the well-being of all classes, surely it is neglecting the great means which it has in its power of maintaining that commercial supremacy.

I should like to draw your Lordships' attention to two points showing the effect upon the country of this tremendous taxation. The first point to which I wish to call your attention is this, that this immense weight of taxation which has been placed in the last six years upon the tax-paying public has checked consumption, and the second point is that it has hampered the springs of industry and is, therefore, most ominous for the future of this country. With regard to the first point, I would remind you that from 1842 to 1899 this country pursued a very sound policy. It endeavoured during that time to promote the well-being of all classes by a reduction of taxation on articles of consumption, and it is impossible to look at the Reports before Parliament without seeing what an admirable effect that had, and how the poorer classes of our countrymen, who at the beginning of that time were really sunk in misery, emerged from that state, and to what extent comfort and well-being increased among them. But since 1899, that policy has been reversed, and out of the £25,000,000 of taxation which has been imposed no less than £15,000,000 has been derived from indirect taxation, and £8,000,000 of that sum is derived from the two great articles of prime necessity to the country—namely, tea and sugar.

Now, what is the result of that? The result has been to increase the price of prime necessaries of life. Not only do I apply that to tea and sugar; it also applies to all the other articles which have been made the subject of increased taxation. It is curious to observe that in almost every case the effect of this has been to check increase of consumption. It has checked an increase of consumption of beer and spirits—matters in regard to which many of us do not care very much; but it has also diminished the consumption of the first articles of necessity, and if you look down the whole line you will see that whereas the consumption of these articles up to 1899 was steadily increasing—the consumption was increasing year by year, and in a larger proportion than the population increased—since that time it has been a question of retrogression, not of progress, and the amount consumed per head of the most important articles of consumption has actually diminished.

That is a very serious matter for us to consider, especially when we reflect that the highest financial authorities and statisticians who have studied the state of the working classes have told us that a very large proportion of our population is insufficiently fed. Of course, there are differences of degree in these calculations, and I am not in the least wishing to press the view taken by such an eminent man as Mr. Charles Booth, who has calculated that in London something like one-third of our enormous population is insufficiently fed. But, at any rate, it must be admitted that there is a very large proportion of our immense population insufficiently fed. The remedy for that is very difficult to find. We see the difficulty which His Majesty's Government have experienced in dealing with the question, we see the difficulty which besets Bills like that for the unemployed; but, at all events, there is one simple thing which the Government could do and which they have not done. They ought not to increase the taxes on the articles of prime necessity. At the first opportunity they had they ought to have regulated the expenditure of the country so as to enable them to relieve the working classes of that war taxation, which I think I have shown has already checked the progress and well-being of our population. I think most of your Lordships will agree with me that the first object of statesmen, the first object of the Government of this country, ought to be, as far as lies in their power, the advancement in comfort and well-being of all classes of His Majesty's subjects. Can we ever look at a situation otherwise than as most unsatisfactory in which we are obliged to admit that a large proportion of our countrymen are absolutely underfed? If we only think of that as applied to the younger generation we must come to the conclusion that we who are taking year by year larger Imperial duties upon our shoulders ought to spare no effort to secure that the rising generation shall be efficient to undertake those duties.

I turn to the second point to which I wish to call your Lordships' attention—that excessive taxation hampers our industries. The population of Germany and the United States is increasing very rapidly and faster than our own, but this curious fact accompanies it, that in Germany in the last fifteen years or more the whole of the increased population have gone into the towns, and that in the United States a very large proportion of the increased population have gone into the towns. Now, what does that mean? It means that a very large proportion of the increased population of these two great countries are turning their attention to manufacture; the result, of course, is that our competitors are increasing in number and the competition they are bringing against us becomes more serious. But that is a natural development which no act of ours could possibly check. What, then, can be done? I venture to think that the first duty of His Majesty's Government is to take care that the traders and the manufacturers of this country have a perfectly free hand, and that, having a free hand, they shall be able to produce as cheaply as possible, bearing in mind the maxim, which I think is now pretty well established, that "Trade follows the price list."

Consider for a moment what has been the effect of our legislation of late years. I do not deny the necessity during a war of imposing considerably increased taxation, but after the war we ought to be in a position to reduce that taxation. I notice that the actual taxes, apart from those additional sums to which my noble friend has referred, have risen from £89,000,000 in 1899 to £118,000,000 in the current year after the reduction which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made in the tea duty. That is really an increase of nearly £30,000,000. That £30,000,000 has been diverted from employment which might have been of very great use to our traders and manufacturers, to uses which, at all events, are not remunerative. I am not supposing for a moment that the whole of that could have reverted, if I may say so, to the pockets of the people, but at all events a very large proportion of it might, and to whatever extent that could have been done it would have had a tendency to make production easier and cheaper. The whole question is, Can our manufacturers and traders produce and carry on their business cheaper than those in other countries? If we load them with taxation so that they have very little margin left which they can employ usefully in the improvement and extension of trade the case will go very much against us.

My noble friend alluded to Mr. Atkinson's statement of the burden of national taxation. I have interested myself in a calculation which shows that the taxes levied by the United States come to about £1 7s. per head, whereas the taxes levied in this country come to £3 per head. I notice that both those calculations omit our local expenditure, to which my noble friend alluded, and also the local expenditure of the United States; but as the local expenditure in both countries very nearly balances, the position is left thus, that in the United States, with their enormous advantages as our competitors—happily they do a great deal to tie up their own legs and arms—they are only hampered by Government taxation to the extent of £1 7s. per head, while we are hampered to the extent of £3 per head. I look with very great alarm at such a situation. I may say at the same time that I have read, though I do not accept it without confirmation, that German taxes are only £1 7s. 6d. per head.

If there is any force in what I have ventured to lay before your Lordships, may I ask whether the Government have really done their duty in the manner in which they have dealt with finance? If there are these dangers before us—and I think they are real dangers, dangers which affect the well-being of our population and the progress of our trade and our means of competing with our neighbours—ought not the Government, within the time which has elapsed since the war came to an end, to have taken serious review of the whole financial situation, to have suggested to the country the lines upon which a peace Budget ought to be established, and to have made it clear to the country that the expenditure, so far as it is incurred, is really required? After what we have heard elsewhere can we really say that what I call the surrender of the expenditure of our great Departments into the hands of the experts has been a success, at all events economically? When we remember the Return which was placed before us at the beginning of this session, which showed that something like 120 ships had been taken off the active list—some of them barely finished and most of them in what I may call the prime of life—may we not fairly put forward the argument, until it is disproved, that there has been an expenditure a great deal in excess of what was actually necessary?

I do not want to touch upon other subjects to-night, but I was struck very much, on reading the other day the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the South African expenditure, to find one page, consisting of fifteen or sixteen paragraphs, every one of which calls attention to grave matters connected with the administration of funds in the South African War. I think it is not quite creditable to the Government and to the War Office that, although three years have elapsed, not one of those important references have been answered by the War Office. I fear that that is proof that, at all events under present arrangements, the country has very little security that when this great expenditure is being carried on there is due regard to that economy which ought to be proved and shown to us to exist before the country consents to bear longer the enormous load of £25,000,000 of war taxation.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, both noble Lords who have addressed your Lordships this evening speak with special authority upon financial questions, and I am sure that the House has listened to them with the respect to which they are entitled. I have certainly done so, and I go further and say that I am not here to differ from either of them with regard to what I conceive to be the main point of the argument which they have addressed to us. Both of them have dwelt upon the rapid increase of the national expenditure; both of them have warned us of the serious results which may arise to the country if some means are not found of arresting that increase. Up to that point I do not think there will be any difference of opinion on either side of the House; but, my Lords, I feel that the two noble Lords have not, perhaps, been so successful when they attempted to show us in what direction we should look for the retrenchment which they consider so essential. The fact is, that retrenchment in the abstract is always popular and easy to suggest; it is when you get to close quarters with the expenditure, and endeavour to find the particular points at which a million or so may be saved here or there that the difficulty of the task commences.

When one looks at the principal heads of expenditure, I think one is struck with the feeling that, after all, the area which is offered for retrenchment is a comparatively small one. Take the great heads into which our national expenditure is divided. You have, in the first place, the service of the Public Debt. That is an expenditure of which we are not masters. The noble Lord suggested, I think with great force, that we should endeavour to reduce the Debt as rapidly as possible, but a more rapid reduction means, of course, an increase of the annual appropriation for the reduction of the Debt. Then there is the Civil Service expenditure. I think my noble friend Lord Avebury, if I correctly understood him, admitted the great difficulty of making a reduction under that head. I, at any rate, am persuaded that the difficulty is very great. I believe there is not a single Department of the Government service in which the work has not steadily increased for many years past, and in which a claim may not be made out for the assistance of a staff larger than that which used to suffice in bygone years.

The noble Lord opposite, Lord Welby, told your Lordships that in his opinion the reduction should be made in the military and naval expenditure of the country, and he gave your Lordships figures showing how expenditure of that class has mounted up. With regard to the Navy, I may remind your Lordships that the Naval Estimates this year do show a very considerable reduction over the Naval Estimates of last year. The difference in favour of this year's Estimates is no less than £3,500,000 sterling —a saving arrived at by the courageous scheme of Lord Selborne, adopted by His Majesty's Government, before he left this country, a scheme which had for its main object the getting rid of a large number of vessels which were costly to the public, but added little or nothing to the fighting efficiency of the Navy. The noble Lord (Lord Avebury) reminded us of the proposal which was once made by my noble friend Lord Goschen, who suggested that it might be possible for this country to reduce its naval expenditure if an understanding could be arrived at with other great naval Powers for a similar reduction. My recollection is that that proposal, the spirit of which, I think, everyone must appreciate, did not meet with any response sufficiently definite to enable us to take action upon it; and I am afraid that one must add that since the time when that proposal was put forward the tendency of other

Powers has been to add largely to their naval strength and their naval expenditure. And, my Lords, it is surely our duty to remember, when we compare our naval expenditure with the expenditure of other Powers, that there is no country in the world to which a strong Navy is so vital and so essential as it is to this country.

In respect of Army expenditure, the noble Lord (Lord Welby) suggested that when the war came to an end some means should have been found for at once making an impression on the Army Estimates. Those who have had anything to do with Army administration, however, know only too well that rapid and sudden reductions of Army expenditure are so difficult as to be virtually impossible. You cannot suddenly get rid of men, and, if you do, it can only be on terms which will be really extravagant and costly to the country. We are obliged as a Government to do what we can to effect a reduction in the expenditure on the Army, and my right hon. colleague who has charge of the War Office is, I know, deeply impressed with the necessity of keeping down the Estimates for the Army; but I notice that whenever he puts forward a proposal for applying the pruning knife with any approach to vigour there is an immediate outcry, not from the Army so much as from the public Press and the public generally, in defence of that particular section of our military machinery with which it is proposed to interfere. I do not think I am wrong in saying that if it had not been for pressure of that kind my right hon. friend would have been able to submit to the country proposals more economical than those which are actually embodied in this year's Army Estimates.

I take one other item of increased expenditure which is perhaps typical—the increase, which, I think, reaches to about £500,000, in the Post Office Vote. Some of your Lordships may recollect the history of that question. There was a Committee presided over by Sir Edward Bradford, and that Committee recommended a considerable addition to the emoluments of the Post Office employees. Here, again, there was a general demand, certainly not from one side in politics alone, but a general demand pressed from both sides, in support of that proposal, and the Estimates went up by the sum which I have mentioned. The fact is that the age in which we live is, I will not say an age of extravagance, but it is an age in which the Government of the day is expected to do more and more for the people of this country, and to do that more and more in a more costly and expensive fashion.

I was very much struck by what was said by the noble Lord who spoke first (Lord Avebury) who reminded your Lordships that we have to bear in mind not only the growth of Imperial taxation, but the growth of local taxation also. To my mind the growth of local taxation is at least as serious as that of Imperial taxation, for, after all, the country has only one pocket, and, although there may be two sets of hands at work at that pocket, there is only one pocket which has to pay in the end. I noticed the other day a statement which goes to show that while in the last forty years our Imperial expenditure has increased from £70,000,000 to £140,000,000, our local ex-expenditure has increased from £36,000,00 to £144,000,000; that is to say, that while the Imperial expenditure has doubled within that period of forty years local expenditure has quadrupled. In that connection I would venture to make an appeal to the noble Lord who spoke second, Lord Welby, who has been extensively, I might say expensively, concerned with the financial administration of the London County Council. I am not fully convinced that he has always been found a successful advocate of economy in administering the large resources with which that body has to deal.

*Lord WELBY: I beg the noble Marquess's pardon for interrupting, but I could show him that the increase there has not been so great. I would also like to remind him that Parliament withheld from London municipal rights for something like fifty years after granting them to the rest of the country, and London then had to make up very great arrears.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: In spite of that I cannot help thinking that the London County Council will be found to have allowed itself a very considerable number of certainly not inexpensive luxuries—I refer to such matters as tramways, buildings for housing the working classes, and I am even under the impression that the noble Lord has allowed himself a little navy of his own which will run into a good deal of money.

*LORD WELBY: But they all pay.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: With regard to the actual proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer I do not gather that either of the noble Lords were disposed to criticise them at all severely. It is true that Lord Welby described the Budget as a Budget of drift. I should have been inclined to describe it as a transition Budget, intended to deal with a period of transition which must take place at the end of a great war and before the national finances revert to their normal condition. At any rate, the two main features of the Budget—I mean the reduction of the duty on tea and the additional contribution to the Sinking Fund—fall well within the canons which the two noble Lords have impressed so earnestly on the House.

I wish to say one word before I sit down upon a point which was touched in passing by the noble Lord who spoke first. He told your Lordships that although under the financial arrangements of the year the fixed debt was diminished by £7,500,000 owing to the operation of the Sinking Fund, we have, so to speak, with the other hand increased our indebtedness by additional borrowing for the purpose of naval and military works. His argument, therefore, is that we have not really reduced the Debt, but that the net result of our operations has been to increase our indebtedness by something like £2,000,000. Of course it is possible, if the noble Lord likes to do so, to refer to those two transactions in juxtaposition, but I submit that they should be treated as entirely distinct, and that the connection between them is not as close as the noble Lord would have us believe. Borrowings for special works, usually of a naval and military kind, have always been treated as something outside the normal financial arrangements of the year.

This is what happens. Some expenditure of a novel kind is suddenly found necessary. Let us say that the developments in the art of naval warfare render it necessary, for the safety of our commerce, to build a new harbour; or let us say that a proper feeling for the comfort and welfare of the soldier impels us to embark upon an expensive scheme of building barracks. In these cases you have to find an amount of money which it is impossible to throw on the Estimates of the year. It would not be fair to the taxpayers of the country that the whole of that expenditure, which represents a more or less permanent improvement, should be thrown upon the finances of a single twelve months; nor, on the other hand, is it right that for such expenditure the fixed debt of the country should be permanently burdened. Accordingly the custom has grown up of providing for the necessary expenditure, in cases of that kind, by means of loans repayable in a comparatively short term of years by an automatic sinking fund. That is what has been done in the present case. Each of these loans gives effect to a policy which has been submitted to, and sanctioned by, Parliament, and each of them provides for a sinking fund by which the loan will eventually be paid off. The sums thus raised ought not to be set against the reduction of the permanent Debt by means of the natural operation of the sinking fund. I do not know that there are any other points that I can usefully notice. I admit that it is right and proper that the financial proposals of the Government should be criticised as they have been criticised by the two noble Lords who have spoken, and I can only say that, so far as I was able to follow their remarks, they criticised them in a spirit to which none of us need take exception.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I feel that we owe a debt of gratitude to my noble friends behind me for having initiated this discussion. The noble Marquess who has just sat down admits the importance of the subject and applauds in a sense the fact that they have brought it before the House. When we look around we must deplore the emptiness of the benches to-night, and the apparent want of interest which the House feels in this great subject; but perhaps the House did not realise that my noble friends were going to speak this evening on the Finance Bill. We on these benches view the enormous increase in the expenditure of the country with the deepest concern. We think that His Majesty's Government have been remiss in not making a difference between the expenditure in peace and the expenditure in war.

I quite admit that there has been apathy in the country with regard to this. There has been apathy on the part of the Government. That has been shown on more than one occasion, and in its latest phase it has been shown in connection with what are called the stores scandals in South Africa. We may hear more of that. An important debate is going on at this moment in another place with regard to the heavy responsibility which rests on the Government itself, apart from the individuals who may have had the administration of these funds in South Africa. There is also considerable apathy in the Houses of Parliament. This House has not the charge of finance, though it has, as the noble Marquess admitted, full right to express its opinions. But in another place there does not seem that desire for economy and vigilance over public expenditure which used to prevail there in old days. I remember well that during the short time I was in the other House—it is nearly fifty years ago—there were always one or two Members who made it their particular business to bring financial matters continually before the House. There is nobody who fills that *rôle* now. There is also apathy in the country itself. It is very often carried away by a warlike feeling, or by a desire to spend money on some particular object, without recognising the need of economy, which is so necessary if we are to increase our commercial prosperity.

The noble Marquess alluded to the question of retrenchment. He referred to expenditure generally and he began with the Civil Service, and to the difficulty there was in retrenchment in that service at the present day. He said that we were living in an age when the Government were more than formerly expected by the people to lay out money in a costly way. That may be so to a certain extent; but it is, however, none the less the bounden duty of the Government to try and retrench in the various branches of the public service. The noble Marquess referred to the difficulty there was in carrying out Lord Goschen's policy of inviting other Powers to reduce naval expenditure. One of the difficulties was that we had ourselves so largely increased our expenditure, in far greater proportion than any other Power. As regards the Army, the noble Marquess said very truly that sudden and rapid reductions were often very disastrous. I quite agree; but no one has asked for a sudden and rapid reduction. We have asked that some difference should be shown between a peace establishment and a war establishment. We look in vain for a sign of retrenchment. Perhaps I may say there was one indication. The Prime Minister recently made a notable speech in another place. A good deal may be said as to whether it was politic for the Prime Minister to make a clean breast of everything that was felt on the most delicate matters connected with the question of defence, but the speech may have been an indication that the Government did not intend to make larger demands for military expenditure. That speech, however, has been followed by no practical result in the direction of reduced expenditure.

I do not propose to go at length into this matter. My two noble friends have shown the great necessity there is for retrenchment, and I hope that the wisdom of their words will be taken to heart, not only in this House but elsewhere. The noble Marquess referred to local expenditure, which is a matter of the highest importance. Local expenditure has no doubt increased enormously, and requires careful watching, but, at the same time, we may say that a large part of this local expenditure is made for purposes which are remunerative. I know there is a difference of opinion on that point, but still that circumstance must be borne in mind. In his reference to the London County Council the noble Marquess forgot that my noble friend behind me (Lord Welby), in his financial statement, which was one of great lucidity, pointed out that, with the exception of the education rate, there was hardly any increase in the county council rate this year. I associate myself with the opinions of my noble friends who have brought forward this subject, and consider that the thanks of the House are due to them for the clear and able way in which they have done so.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I think it would be as well that we should have clear statements of the growth of these large items. Take the Army. The Army Estimates in 1853 were £9,000,000; in 1870 they had risen to £17,000,000; and noble Lords know what they are at the present time. I think it would be very useful and interesting if we could get a Return from the War Office, and from the other Departments setting forth the causes of these extraordinary increases of expenditure, and what we have to show for them.

On Question, Bill read 2ª; Committee negatived and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

House adjourned at five minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 26th June, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Sandgate Urban District

Council Bill [Lords]; Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

Morley Corporation Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Darien Gold Mining Company Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

Leven's Patent Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

London County Council (Money) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Rhymney Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Bill [Lords]. To be read the third time To-morrow.

Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill. As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Gamble's Divorce Bill [Lords] (By Order). Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Sheffield University Bill [Lords] (by Order). Consideration, as amended, deferred till Thursday, 6th July (Evening Sitting).

STANDING ORDERS.

Ordered, That so much of Standing Order 91 as fixes Five as the quorum of the Select Committee on Standing Orders be read and suspended.

Ordered, That, for the remainder of the session, Three be the quorum of the Committee.—(*Mr. Halsey.*)

Millport Piers and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

London County Council (Tramways) Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP E).

Sir HENRY AUBREY-FLETCHER reported from the Committee on Group E of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Institution known as the Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind to acquire and to hold lands for the purposes of that institution; and to make further provision with respect to the constitution of the committee of management and the management of the institution, the investment of the moneys of the institution; and for other purposes." [Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the powers of the Central Electric Supply Company, Limited; and for other purposes." [Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the County of London Electric Supply Company, Limited, to purchase lands and construct generating stations; and for other purposes." [County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend and amend the Humber Conservancy Acts, 1852 to 1899, and to confer further powers upon the Humber Conservancy Commissioners; and for other purposes." [Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords.]

Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [Lords]; Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords]; County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords]; Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUGAR AND SUGARED GOODS (IMPORT DUTIES) (FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th May; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 207.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902. (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Applications to and Proceedings of the Board of Trade under The Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 208.]

FRUIT CULTURE (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to inquire into and report upon the Fruit Industry of Great Britain, with Copy of the Minute appointing the Committee [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on 11th March, 1905, amending the Ordinance regulating the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowships [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 209.]

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of Balliol College, Oxford, on 23rd November, 1904, amending Statute IV. and Schedule B of the College Statutes [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 210.]

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.

Account presented, of the Receipts and Payments under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1905 [by Act; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 211.]

INEBRIATES ACTS (INSPECTOR'S REPORT).

Copy presented, of Report of the Inspector, under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1900, for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD).

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Birkenhead re-dividing the Borough into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of Licence granted to Maria Yates, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the East End Refuge, Finchley [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of Licence granted to Elizabeth Marie Mantle, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, Hackney [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3416 to 3421 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Return ordered, "of Net Public Income and Net Public Expenditure under certain specified heads, as represented by Receipts into and Issues out of the Exchequer from 1890–1891 to 1904–5, inclusive (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 277, of Session 1904)."—(*Sir Henry Fowler.*)

CASUALTIES TO SHIPS.

Return ordered, "of Casualties to Ships, showing the date; the name and class of the Ship damaged; the nature of the accident; the number of persons injured; the number of deaths (if any); the result of any inquiry that may have been held into the circumstances; and time in dockyard for repairs; during the year ending the 31st day of December, 1904 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 116, of Session 1905).—(*Mr. Lough.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Day for Discussion of Public Accounts Committee's Report.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now say what arrangement he proposes to make in order to carry out the undertaking given on April

17th to give either one of the days allotted to Supply, if the House agrees, or otherwise a Friday or an Evening Sitting, for the consideration by the House of the Public Accounts Committee's Report, and its decision thereon.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) In the hon. Member's absence I regret not having furnished him with an Answer to this Question which was starred and addressed to me on Thursday. In the present condition of public business I fear I cannot give a definite reply; but if the Question can be repeated towards the end of next week I hope I shall then be able to fix a day for the discussion.

Army—Financial Control.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, can he say whether the provisions of the Army Order of January 6th, 1905, relative to financial control came into force on February 15th, 1905; whether they are still in force; and whether, in view of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee thereon of May 26th, they will be reconsidered.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) The Order, I am informed, is in force in districts where local audit already existed. In other districts it came into operation on May 1st. The Order is still in force. The Report of the Public Accounts Committee on this particular matter is now under the consideration of the Treasury and the War Office.

Compensation for Wrongful Imprisonment—Case of Mr. Horace Forbes.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has yet considered the amount of compensation to be granted to Mr. Horace Forbes, who, in the month of April last, was arrested, convicted of fraud, and sentenced to eighteen months hard labour, but eventually proved to be innocent and released from gaol; is he able to state whether this conviction was due to any act of carelessness or neglect; will he state how many cases of miscarriage of justice have come under his notice during the last two years; and whether any special efforts are being made to protect the public against such risks.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) The defendant mentioned by the hon. Member was convicted last month at the North London Sessions on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences, and sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment with hard labour. In consequence of information given by the prisoner after his conviction inquiries were made by the police, and the result of these inquiries was to raise sufficient doubt regarding the propriety of the conviction to justify me in recommending the remission of the remainder of the sentence. I cannot, however, regard the case as one where a free pardon should be granted, or any compensation given from public funds. I am satisfied that there was no carelessness or neglect on the part of the police or the prosecution; and that all the evidence favourable to the prisoner which was then known to the police was brought clearly before the jury. When compared with the total number of convictions, the number of wrong or doubtful convictions which have come to my notice has been extremely small. The number of persons convicted of indictable offences is about 48,000 a year; and during the past two years I have seen my way to advising the grant of a free pardon in four cases, while in about fifteen cases I have felt so much doubt as to the propriety of the conviction that I have advised the remission of the remainder of the sentence. In some of these cases the juries were apparently led to convict because the prisoners' own witnesses informed them of the previous convictions of the prisoners. Every possible precaution is taken by the Metropolitan Police to preclude mistakes in identification; and I am communicating with the local police authorities elsewhere with a view to making sure that similar precautions are taken in all parts of the country.

Use of Saxonite for Blasting Purposes.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the dangers arising from the use of a high explosive called Saxonite for blasting purposes, which is on the list of the compounds authorised for such purposes by the Home Office; whether this substance, though safe in the sense of not producing on ignition a spark capable of firing gas, is liable under some atmospheric or other conditions to explode prematurely under light percussion; whether any accidents can be traced to this cause; and whether he intends to take any steps in consequence.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) The Returns of accidents occurring in connection with the use of explosives show that out of 301 such accidents in 1904, resulting in thirty-nine deaths and injuries to 343 persons, fifteen, resulting in three deaths and injuries to twenty-two persons, occurred in connection with the use of Saxonite. Taking those classes of accident in which the comparative sensitiveness of the explosive might act as a factor, *e.g.*, accidents caused by tampering with missfired shots, ramming or stemming the charge, boring into unexploded charges, etc., I find that eight out of 116, or about 6 per cent., occurred with Saxonite. There are no statistics available as to the proportions in which the different explosives are used for blasting purposes; but I am advised that these figures would not appear to show, nor is there anything in the composition of the explosive to make it probable, that Saxonite is more sensitive than other explosives of the kind. It must not be supposed, however, that this or any other explosive can be safely used for blasting without proper precautions. It cannot be too often repeated that there is no such thing as a "safe" explosive.

Fines at Sheffield Police Court.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the magistrates adjudicating in the Sheffield Police Court recently fined a labouring man 10s. for keeping a dog without a licence, the maximum penalty being £5; and that the same magistrates, in a case against a city magistrate for employing a male servant without a licence, only ordered the defendant to pay the costs, the maximum penalty being £20; and whether, seeing that the labouring man attended the Court and thus lost a day's wages, whilst the city magistrate did not appear, that an arrangement was made that the name of the magistrate should not be called out in Court in the ordinary way and that it only transpired during the hearing of the case, and that in this case the licence duty had been evaded for some years, under the circumstances the fine imposed on the labouring man will be remitted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I shall be obliged if the hon. Member will give me further details as to the first of the two cases he mentions, which I have not been able to identify with certainty. I may say, however, that it is obvious that if the conviction was a proper one and the penalty was deserved, no reasons for remitting that penalty can be deduced from the conduct of the Bench in a different case. My inquiries into the second case—that of the magistrate who was summoned for keeping a man-servant without a licence —are not yet complete, and I shall be glad of a little longer time in which to finish them.

Recruiting of Chinese Labourers—Payments to Chinese Government.

MR. DUNCAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware if any payment by the importer of Chinese labourers to South Africa is made to the Chinese Government or any local or provincial official in China for the privilege of recruiting.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) No such payment is made, as far as I am aware, in respect of the recruiting, but I understand that, in addition to the payment made under the Convention, the Chinese Government receive from the mines a further fee of $3 to provide for the expense of the Consulate at Johannesburg and other expenses.

Threatening Letters to Scotch Members of Parliament.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Lord-Advocate whether it is proposed to class the threatening letters received by those Scotch Members as agrarian outrages; and whether the Scotch police will be instructed to tabulate and report them in the same way as the Irish constabulary do in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) The Answer to the hon. Member's Question is in the negative. So far as the Lord-Advocate is aware there was only one such letter received, and it did not refer to agrarian matters.

Sale of Carcases of Calves Inoculated for Lymph for Food.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): To ask the Secretary to the Local Government Board whether the carcases of calves inoculated for lymph at the Local Government Board vaccine station are sold for food in London; and, if so, whether he will give instructions to have such carcases destroyed instead of being returned to the contractors.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) As I stated in reply to a Question put to me by the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty on the 30th ultimo,† I am advised that there is no evidence whatever that the carcases of animals used for the purpose referred to are thereby rendered unfit for food. The destruction of the carcases would, moreover, involve a large additional charge upon the Exchequer, amounting probably to some £4,000 a year, and, having regard to these considerations, I am not prepared to adopt the suggestion of the hon. Member. I may add that the carcases are thoroughly examined by a veterinary surgeon before being allowed to be sold for food.

Woolacombe Water Supply.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the fact that the water about to be supplied by the Ilfracombe Urban District Council to Woolacombe is taken from Exmoor, and has been passed as perfectly satisfactory by every medical man who has analysed it, he will say if the Local Government Board have sanctioned the borrowing of the money necessary for the supply of this water.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The Answer to the Question is in the affirmative.

Postmasters—English and Irish Appointments.

Mr. MACVEAGH: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the number of postmasterships which have been filled in Great Britain and Ireland from 1st January, 1895, to the 1st January, 1905, and the salary in each case; also the number of those in Great Britain which have been filled by officials drawn from the Irish service and the number in Ireland which have been filled by officials from Great Britain, with the salary in each case.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The preparation of the Return asked for by the hon. Member would be troublesome and expensive, and as I do not think it would serve any useful purpose I regret that I cannot undertake to furnish it.

Sheep-Scab Regulations in Scotland and England.

Mr. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will explain why sheep from areas infected with sheep-scab in Scotland are allowed to come into England without being under inspection, while sheep from infected areas in England and Wales cannot be moved without such inspection.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) The formulation of arrangements for the control of the movement of sheep from the northern counties of Scotland has been attended with considerable difficulty and has been the subject of somewhat prolonged negotiations with the local authorities concerned. An Order has, however, now been passed which prescribes the compulsory dipping of sheep in those counties between the 15th July and the 1st September next, and imposes restrictions on the movement of sheep out of the dipping area. The new Order will, I believe, afford adequate security against the spread of disease from the counties in question. I shall be happy to supply a copy to the hon. Member.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlvii., 221.

Regulations for Prevention of Sheep-Scab.

Mr. BRIGHT: To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the difficulties caused by the various sheep-scab regulations; and whether he is prepared to substitute for the present rule the system of proclaiming an area immediately round the infected place, and of applying more stringent measures with regard to the movement of sheep to and from this area.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) I have given careful attention to the representations which have been made to me on this subject. Under the Sheep-Scab Order of 1905 provision is made for the detention of sheep believed to have been in contact with sheep affected with sheep-scab, and under the Sheep-Scab (Compulsory Dipping Areas) Order of 1905, the compulsory dipping of all sheep in a particular area may also be required. In addition, however, it is also necessary to take measures to prevent the spread of the disease from districts in which it is generally prevalent, and it is under this head that some difficulties have arisen in connection with the measures we are taking to stamp it out. I am hopeful that the modifications we have been able to make in our Orders on this subject will remove any serious cause of complaint respecting them. I do not think we could with any advantage increase the stringency of the measures taken on the spot when the disease is reported or discovered.

Coccidiosis in Rabbits.

Mr. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has information as to the existence of disease of the nature of tuberculosis affecting the liver of the rabbit, specially prevalent this year; and, if so, will he cause inquiry to be made and information laid before the Commission on Tuberculosis as being a disease possibly affecting the food of man.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) I am advised that the disease to which my hon. friend refers is caused by an animal parasite, and that it is not of the nature of tuberculosis. Its correct name is coccidiosis. In these circumstances it does not appear to be necessary for any communication to be made to the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis on the subject. It is not considered by the Board's veterinary officers that the disease is attended with any danger to man, but I propose to bring the matter under the notice of the Local Government Board.

Inspection of Irish Mines and Quarries.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the Report from the Home Office for 1904 showing that during last year active operations were carried on in 568 mines and quarries in Ireland, that the number of persons employed in connection with those mines and quarries was 5,504, and that the output was represented by 1,290,595 tons, and, in view of the fact that the officials for the due inspection of these mines and quarries live and have their offices either in Manchester or Wigan, he will consider the advisability of arranging that Ireland, as an inspection district, should be separated from Manchester, with a view to the establishment of an independent district in Ireland with a resident staff, comprising a chief inspector, assistant inspectors, and a secretary to the board of examination.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I do not think the scale on which the mining and quarrying industries are carried on in Ireland is large enough to justify the creation of a separate inspection district for Ireland with a separate staff and examining board. The Report to which the hon. Member refers shows that last year there were at work in Ireland only fifty-eight mines and 510 quarries, as compared with 4,006 mines and 7,507 quarries in the whole country; that the number of persons employed in them was 5,504 out of a total of 974,634; the number of tons of mineral raised 1,275,336 out of a total of over 294,000,000; and the number of deaths from accident six out of a total of 1,202.

Shrewsbury Municipal Charities.

Mr. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): To ask the hon. Member for the Tunbridge Division, as representing the Charity Commissioners, whether the Charity Commissioners have formulated any scheme for the reformation of the Shrewsbury municipal charities, in pursuance of the inquiry held in May, 1904; and, if so, when it will be in operation; and whether it is in accordance with the views of the Charity Commissioners that individual charity trustees, by themselves or their friends, can properly distribute doles of money, coals, and blankets without reference to their co-trustees; and, if not, whether the Charity Commissioners can so regulate the selection of trustees, and their number, and so control the distribution as to secure that the benefits of charities shall be enjoyed without allowing undue predominance to any political Party.

(*Answered by Mr. Griffith Boscawen.*) A scheme for the administration of the Shewsbury municipal charities has been drafted, and is with the King's printers. Before the scheme can come into operation it must be published, and any objections must be considered by the Commissioners. The scheme constitutes a new body of trustees, and has been framed by the Commissioners with a view to securing that the benefits of the charities shall be applied, not by any individuals but by the trustees as a body, without reference to any political considerations.

Loss of Submarine A 8—Pensions for Widows of Seamen.

Mr. DUKE (Plymouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the extent of the provision made by the Board of Admiralty for the relatives, respectively, of the men who lost their lives by the accidental sinking at Plymouth of the submarine boat A 8.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) Combined Greenwich Hospital and naval pensions and allowances have been awarded to the following widows:—

	s.	d.	
Mrs. E. Kerswell .	8	0	per week
Mrs. E. Simpson .	6	6	,,
Mrs. C. Vickers .	11	0	,,
Mrs. A. L. Reeve .	9	0	,,
Mrs. S. S. Bruckland	11	0	,,

The scale of pensions fixed in the regulations is:—

Rating.	Widow's pension per week.			Allowance for each child dependent on the mother, per week.
	From the funds of Greenwich Hospital.	Supplementary pension from Naval Funds.	Total.	
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
(1) Able seamen and stokers	3 6	1 6	5 0	1 6
(2) Second class petty officers	4 0	2 0	6 0	1 6
(3) First class petty officers -	4 6	3 0	7 6	2 0
(4) Chief petty officers - -	5 0	4 0	9 0	2 0

and the widow of W. G. Ayloff (the only remaining widow) will be dealt with in accordance with this scale when she has furnished the information which has been asked for. The dependent relatives of men who have left no widows may be awarded Greenwich Hospital gratuities of amounts not exceeding one year's wages (exclusive of extra or additional pay) of the deceased.

Naval Pensioners over Fifty-five not receiving Age Pension.

Mr. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state how many naval pensioners over the age of fifty-five, who signed for a second period of service before 29th June, 1878, are not yet in receipt of the first instalment of the age pension of 5d. a day.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) It is regretted that this Question cannot be answered, as the details concerned are not recorded in the registers of the Department in a form enabling the information to be readily furnished. To make the requisite extracts a considerable amount of labour would be needed, and the work would occupy a period of about three weeks, for which extra clerical assistance would be required.

Reinstatement of Irish Evicted Tenants —Application of Mrs. Johanna Daly.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the application for reinstatement of Mrs. Johanna Daly, of Kilgarvan, an evicted tenant on the Hungerford Orpen Estate, has been received and dealt with by the Estates Commissioners; and whether any untenanted land in the neighbourhood has come into the hands of the Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Applications have been received from Mrs. Johanna Daly for reinstatement in three holdings on the Hungerford Orpen Estate, from which she alleges she was evicted. The holdings appear to be in the occupation of other tenants, and no proceedings for the sale of the estate have been instituted before the Estates Commissioners. In the event of the Commissioners acquiring suitable untenanted lands in the neighbourhood the applications will be considered.

Bookbinding Work in the Public Record Office, Dublin.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the bookbinders' work of the Public Record Office, Dublin, is at the present time being executed by a member of the office staff who is in receipt of a weekly wage of 27s., while the minimum wages of bookbinders in Dublin is 32s. per week; and will he undertake to make inquiries and have the work done for the future by bookbinders who will be paid not less than the minimum scale of wages.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) A portion only of the time of one workman searcher is employed in certain binding work at the Public Record Office.

Salaries of Irish National School Teachers.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state the number of vacancies in Irish national schools in principalships and in assistantships, respectively; whether he is aware that the dearth of teachers is due to the present grade salaries, and to the slowness of promotion; that a number of teachers trained at the expense of the Irish Education Vote are taking up positions in England; that many managers, in order to secure competent teachers, are under the necessity of supplementing their salaries by sums ranging from £5 to £15; and whether, in view of these facts, he will invite the Commissioners to reopen the whole question of the salaries of national teachers.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) It is not possible to state accurately the number of vacancies existing in Irish national schools at any one time. From the office records there would seem to be about thirty-eight vacancies for principals and about fifty-one vacancies for assistants at present; but when the returns are received from the managers at the end of the present month it will be found, no doubt, that most of these vacancies have been filled. There is no dearth of teachers of national schools. Owing to regulations made by the English Education Board for the recognition of the certificates of the Irish National Board some Irish teachers are obtaining employment in schools in England. On the other hand some teachers certificated in England are obtaining employment in Irish national schools. The Commissioners expect local aid to supplement the salaries of the teachers. This is an essential condition for the recognition of a school by the Board. The scale of salaries has been fixed only comparatively recently, and it is not proposed to reopen the question. It must be remembered that the average number of pupils at each Irish school is about fifty-four, and the average at each English school is about 250, and that Irish teachers cannot expect to be paid at the same rate for teaching small schools (of which there are 5,360 with attendances of less than fifty pupils in Ireland) as English teachers are paid for teaching large schools of 200 children and upwards.

Visit of Salvation Army Officer to John Foster when under Sentence of Death.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a man named John Foster was tried and condemned to death at Cork, on the 22nd March last; that after Foster received sentence he expressed a desire to be visited by a Salvation Army officer; that the officer went to the prison to visit the condemned man, but was refused admission until consent was given by the prison chaplain, which was also refused; if he can state on what grounds was Foster refused his request; and what steps, if any, will be taken to prevent such refusals in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Foster, who was tried and condemned as stated, did not at any time express a desire to be visited by a Salvation Army officer. On 23rd March two female officers of the Salvation Army went to the prison to visit the condemned man, but he declined to see them; and they were so informed. If the prisoner had desired to receive the visit the prison chaplain would have raised no objection.

Division of Rathmines District—Cost of Local Inquiry.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the demand made on the Dublin County Council by the Local Government Board for Ireland for payment of the costs for holding a local inquiry in reference to the division of the suburban district of Rathmines into wards; whether he is aware that, though the inquiry referred to was held by the Local Government Board, it was declared by that body itself to be illegal, on the ground that the Board had no power to do that for which the inquiry was held; whether there is any precedent for such a demand; and whether the demand will be persisted in by the Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Local Government Board applied in due course to the Dublin County Council for payment, under Article 32 (3) of the Schedule to The Local Governmen (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, of the costs of the local inquiry held by them into the appeals lodged against the Order of the Dublin County Council altering the wards of the Rathmines Urban District. The county council, however, refused to pay these costs, on the ground that the inquiry need not have been held, as the Local Government Board might have decided the legal point against the Order before it was raised. The Board have pointed out that the lodgment of petitions against the Order of the county council rendered it obligatory on them to hold the inquiry, that the legal point was not raised until the inquiry was held, and that even if the Board had been aware of the legal point they were nevertheless bound by statute to hold the inquiry before adjudicating in the matter. The Board are required in all cases where local inquiries are held to recover the costs thereof from the local authorities, and must follow the usual course in this case.

Petition of Barbados for a British Garrison.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a petition from the Barbados House of Assembly, praying that a garrison of Imperial troops might continue to be stationed at Barbados; and whether he can see his way to give effect to the petition.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The petition referred to by the hon. Member has been received and has been laid before the King, but His Majesty's Government regret to have found themselves unable to advise His Majesty to give effect to it.

Manufacture of Bayonets.

MR. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): To ask the Secretary of State for War how many bayonets have been manufactured at Enfield during the present year; how many are required to complete stocks and reserve; and how it is proposed that these latter should be supplied.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The following bayonets for the short rifle have been manufactured since:—

	1st January, 1905.	1st April, 1905.
New - - -	19,303 - - -	6,809
Conversions -	1,018 - - -	Nil.

The numbers required to complete stock and reserve for the short rifle are 12,226. 2,500 are to be ordered from the trade, and the balance from the Ordnance Factories.

Woolwich Arsenal.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that 150 men engaged in the Danger Building, Royal Laboratory, Woolwich Arsenal, were indefinitely suspended on Saturday, June 17th; and whether this method is adopted only to reduce the rates of pay in these departments of individual men.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Notices of suspension were given to 160 men in the Royal Laboratory Danger Buildings, Royal Arsenal, on the 17th instant on account of shortness of work. It is regretted that it is probable that these men will have to be discharged.

Grants to Rifle Clubs.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can now state whether it will be possible to make a grant to such rifle clubs as are affiliated to the National Rifle Association during the present year; and, if not, whether it is proposed to make such grant next year.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) I am afraid I can only refer my hon. and gallant friend to the Answer given by me to an identical Question on March 22nd,† an Answer which I have no reason, at present, to vary.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Fleet Manœuvres in the English Channel.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether two sections of the Fleet were manœuvring in different directions in the Channel without lights on the night of June 2nd; whether the Board of Trade regulations with regard to sounding the steam siren were observed when the fog came on and the "Afghanistan" was run down, involving the loss of nineteen lives; and, if so, whether the Admiralty will take care in future that such operations shall be confined to less crowded seas than the English Channel.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The Channel Fleet was manœuvring without lights in two columns of divisions line ahead shortly before midnight on June 2nd. At the time of the collision, which occurred more than an hour later, the ships were proceeding on their course and showing navigation and steam lights. The Answer to the second part of the Question is in the affirmative. The Admiralty consider it inadvisable to exclude any of the waters of our coasts from the manœuvre area of our Fleets.

Submarines.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many submarine boats have been completed up to the present for the Navy, and what has been the total expenditure upon them; how many have been sunk or destroyed, and what has been the total loss of life; how many of the remaining boats are considered seaworthy; and whether steps can be taken to experiment more carefully with this type of boat so as to avert such loss of life as took place in the recent accident at Plymouth.

MR. PRETYMAN: The total expenditure upon submarine boats up to the present time is £807,535. The number of boats already completed is seventeen. Two of the vessels have been sunk, but both were subsequently recovered, and the total loss of life—including those killed by the explosion on the A 5—amounts to four officers and twenty-eight men. All the boats are considered seaworthy. Every care is taken during exercises, and the recent accident was not due to experiments.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxliii., 789.

Late Arrival of Ministers.

When the Questions addressed to the Secretary of State for War were reached the right hon. Gentleman was not in his place to answer them.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Where is the Secretary of State for War?

An HON. MEMBER: He has resigned.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford), addressing the Speaker, said: On a point of order, Sir, may I put a Question? There are eighty starred Questions on the Paper to-day, probably more than can be answered within the time limited under the rules. If the proceedings are to be interrupted for five or ten minutes waiting for Ministers to come in, it is quite impossible to hope that anything like the number on the Paper can be answered. Is there no remedy to protect the right of private Members to have their Questions answered?

*MR. SPEAKER: The inconvenience may possibly have arisen owing to the fact that the first twenty-four Questions have gone through so very rapidly.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.) at this point entered the House and expressed regret at his late arrival.

The South African War Stores Scandal—The Press Censorship.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state on whose authority the Press censors in South Africa prevented references being made in the local newspapers to the alleged scandals in connection with the military contracts for sales and supplies.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the fact that the Press correspondents in Pretoria would have warned the public of the questionable transactions with reference to the sales and refunds to contractors by the military authorities in South Africa, but were prevented from so doing by the Press censors in South Africa; and will he say who was the chief military Press censor at the time of these transactions during the dual system of sales and contracts from June, 1902, and onwards; whether he has made any inquiries into this matter; and, if so, what are the results of those inquiries; and whether he has any, and, if so, what, explanation to make with reference to the action of the Press censors in this matter.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: In reference to these Questions, a telegram was despatched to the General Officer Commandng in South Africa, who reports that he questioned the editor of the *Pretoria News*, the paper which was responsible for the statement which has appeared in the English Press. The editor stated that he referred to censorship in 1901 concerning statements criticising meat and transport contracts, and not to the sales contracts which had not then commenced.

MR. WHITLEY: May we take it that the *Pretoria News* was prevented in 1901 from making references to these matters?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: All the papers were under a censorship at that time.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Who was the chief military censor?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I do not know.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Do you not? We do. Stanley!

Amount Realised by Sales of Military Stores in South Africa.

MR. SLACK (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what was the actual amount realised and received as the total result of the sales of the surplus animals and articles which Lord Kitchener in his cablegram of 18th

June, 1902, estimated would probably reach some £6,000,000 or £7,000,000, referred to in paragraph 7, on page 5, of the Report of the Committtee on Sales and Refunds to Contractors in South Africa. [Cd. 2435.]

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Will the hon. Member kindly refer to my reply to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for the Saffron Walden Division of Essex on Thursday † last.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Did not that refer to an entirely different set of stores?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER was understood to reply that the same stores were referred to.

Mr. SLACK asked what the exact figure was.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was following the ordinary practice in referring back to previous Answers. He did not know whether he need repeat the Answer to a previous Question. He would do so, however. It was as follows:—The War Office is not in possession of any detail of the stores on which the estimate made by Lord Kitchener—admittedly a rough one—was based. A total sum of approximately £8,000,000 was realised by the sale of various stock in South Africa from April, 1902, to September, 1904; but the moneys arising from the sale of ordinary supplies to soldiers, captured stock, etc., are included in this total and cannot be separated. As regards the other points raised in the Question, the information desired by the hon. Member would require considerable labour to obtain in consequence of the difficulty of differentiating between the stores actually consumed and those of a similar description which arrived at a later date.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: Have the War Office the estimate made by Colonel Morgan and handed to Lord Kitchener, in which he puts the value of the stores at £8,000,000.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I must ask for notice of that.

The Preface to the Butler Report.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state, with reference to the observation in his preface to the Butler Report that as far as the charges with reference to individuals are concerned the matters dealt with in the Report must be regarded as *sub judice*, to what judicial authority does he refer, and what are his powers.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Will the hon. Member be good enough to refer to my reply to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for South Wolverhampton on Thursday ‡ last, to which I have nothing to add.

The War Office and the Butler Report.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether communications direct or indirect were made on receipt of the Draft Report of the South African Sales and Refunds to Contractors Committee, to members of that Committee suggestive of alterations of the general character of the Report and of the presentation of the findings in a form less distinctive to the individuals and the system condemned; and whether the preface to the Report was written by him after suggestions for the alteration or rewriting of the Report were repelled by the Committee.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There is not a shadow of foundation for the suggestion contained in the hon. Member's Question.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I will accept the right hon. Gentleman's word, but do I understand that no communications have passed between him and any member of the Committee with reference to an alteration of that Report?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I thought I had answered that and that the hon. Member had accepted my assurance.

Colonel Morgan.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the passage in Part II. of the Report of the Sales and Refunds to Contractors in South Africa Committee in which the Committee hold Colonel Morgan entirely responsible for the grave scandals arising through his brother's connection with contracting firms, and consider that he contravened not only the letter of the regulations defining the conduct of officers but that he acted entirely in opposition to the spirit and traditions of the Army; and what action, if any, do the War Office authorities intend to take with reference to this gentleman.

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† See () *Debates*, cxlvii., p. 1334.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxlvii., p. 1338.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Pending the result of a general inquiry into the transactions connected with the sales and refunds to contractors in South Africa, it is not proposed to take any further steps in regard to the officer in question.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: What was the date of Colonel Morgan's suspension?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Colonel Morgan has not been suspended.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Relieved; you know what I mean.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I cannot recall the exact date. If the hon. Member will give me notice I will tell him the date.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Was it only after the publication of the Report?

[No Answer was returned.]

Accounts of the Sales Department in South Africa.

Mr. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Sales Department, appointed by Lord Kitchener on June 18th, 1902, kept strict ledgers and accounts for all transactions in accordance with his orders; and, if so, whether there is any official information showing that in the disposal of stores committed to the Sales Department there has been a wastage of three or four millions of money.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The records of the Sales Department have been retained in South Africa. The points raised by the hon. Member will form part of the inquiry by the Royal Commission, and I am not, therefore, now in a position to deal with them.

The Sale and Purchase of Oats in South Africa.

Mr. LOUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether twenty-two cargoes of oats, carrying a total quantity of 80,249 tons, were shipped from abroad to South Africa after the 1st of August, 1902; whether the whole quantity of these cargoes was first sold to and then bought back from Meyer, Limited, as explained in the Butler Report; and, if so, what did Meyer's profits amount to on this portion of his transaction.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The hon. Member's Question appears to me to raise precisely one of those issues which ought to be inquired into by the tribunal which is about to be created. Under these circumstances I must ask leave to be dispensed from answering it. It is clear that I cannot possibly have any information with regard to the last paragraph of the hon. Member's Question.

Mr. LOUGH: But the Prime Minister last week said no cargoes were sent out after July 5th. Can the right hon. Gentleman explain the discrepancy in the two statements.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No cargoes were despatched under contracts made in this country.

Cost of Military Supplies Sold in South Africa and Amount Realised.

Mr. LOUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what was the actual cost price of the supplies, set out on page 37 of the Butler Report, as having accumulated in South Africa on the 30th December, 1902; what amount was produced by the sale of these stores; and what loss was shown on the transaction apart from sea freight and railway carriage.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: As these supplies were obtained from different sources and at varying rates, it is only possible to state their price very approximately. The total estimated cost price was, roughly, £2,300,000. Only a portion of these supplies was sold, the remainder being retained for use by the troops. I am afraid that I cannot give any figures for the amounts sold, as it is not possible without very great labour to pick out the items.

Military Stores destroyed in South Africa.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether receipts were originally obtained for the £250,000 worth of Army stores stated, in Parliamentary Paper 2433, to have been destroyed in South Africa during 1899–1901; and, if so, why the War Office has entered the words "not known" in the column for the names of the contractor who supplied the stores, in that Parliamentary Paper in respect of over £100,000 worth of destroyed stores.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Receipts for money paid to contractors in respect of stores, etc., are always obtained before the charges are passed against Army Votes. The Return in question was compiled from reports of boards held on supplies in South Africa, and in those cases referred to the names of the contractors were not specified by the boards. As the supplies were obtained from so many different sources, there was no information at the War Office available to supplement the details forwarded from South Africa.

The Military Stores Scandal—The Impugned Firms.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state why it was that not until the 1st June, 1905, were the names of Messrs. Meyer and Co., of Pretoria, and of Messrs. Wilson and Worthington, of Pretoria, struck off the War Office Army Contracts lists, having regard to the fact that the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General containing statements respecting the sale to, after purchase from, the Government by these firms of oats and forage at enormous profit to themselves was issued as far back as 10th March, 1905.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The fact that these firms had made very advantageous contracts with the local military authorities did not in itself justify their being black-listed. But on the receipt of Sir W. Butler's Report instructions were given that, pending a further inquiry, no fresh contracts should be given to the firms in question.

The Military Stores Scandal—The Monthly Reports.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state who was responsible for the failure to carry out the order of the War Office of 31st July, 1902, calling for monthly reports by telegram from South Africa as to the working of the dual system of purchase from, and sale to, local contractors of Army supplies as set up under Lord Kitchener's authority in June, 1902; and whether the War Office have taken or propose to take any steps at all in connection with this failure.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Questions of this character will doubtless form part of the inquiry by the Royal Commission, and I think, therefore, this branch of the inquiry should be left to that body.

Dr. MACNAMARA: Can the right hon. Gentleman answer the last part of my Question.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I will state this afternoon what we have done.

Lord Kitchener and the Butler Report.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Lord Kitchener's attention has been called to the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, issued in March, and of the Butler Committee, issued in June, respecting the working of the dual system of purchases from, and sales to, local contractors in South Africa, as set up by Lord Kitchener in June, 1902; whether any report on the matter has been received from Lord Kitchener; and whether the War Office proposes to ask for his views on the matter.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No communications on these Reports have passed with Lord Kitchener. In view of the inquiry by the Royal Commission the War Office do not propose to take any steps in the direction suggested. Of course the Report has been communicated to Lord Kitchener.

General Sir Neville Lyttelton.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state if General Sir Neville Lyttelton has resigned his position as First Military Member of the Army Council and Chief of the General Staff; and, if so, under what circumstances.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: General Sir Neville Lyttelton has not resigned his position upon the Army Council.

MR. MACVEAGH: Have any communications passed between the War Office and General Lyttelton as to the advisability of his resigning?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: General Lyttelton is not attached to the War Office, but to the Army Council.

MR. MACVEAGH: Has no communication passed as to the effect of the Report on his position?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir; of course not. General Lyttelton is master of his own actions, and he has not resigned.

MR. MACVEAGH: You may as well tell it now. It will all come out any way.

Sales and Refunds Committee.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if there is any precedent for the publication of evidence as orally given and as corrected from the shorthand writers' transcription, as in the case of the Sales and Refunds Committee; if he will say with what object it was advised; and why the alteration of the questions does not similarly appear in the second column.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I am not aware of any precedent for the mode of publication of the evidence in question. The departure from precedent in this instance is due to the pressure which was put upon the Committee by the Public Accounts Committee to furnish this Report. In consequence of this pressure, many of the corrections were received after the Report had been completed. The Chairman informed me that in the circumstances he considered it fair to the witnesses that the evidence upon which the Report was based should be distinguished from the corrected evidence which had not been before the Committee when the Report was signed. Under these circumstances, I did not feel justified in overruling the decision of the Chairman of the Committee.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: But is there any precedent for publishing the evidence without giving the witnesses an opportunity of correcting it?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There is none, but the circumstances were peculiar. The publication was pressed for by the Public Accounts Committee and I felt it my duty to allow it.

War Office Tenders.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if at present and in peace time it is usual for the War Office to publish, or to permit those interested to see, the tenders for articles required by the War Office; if both the successful and the unsuccessful tenders are so published; and if there are any exceptions to the rule.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is not usual for the War Office to show either successful or unsuccessful tenders to anyone. The name alone of the successful tenderer is given to any unsuccessful tenderer in that competition who specifically asks for it. There are no exceptions to these rules.

The Royal Commission—Publication of Official Documents.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will lay upon the Table of the House copies of all official documents, and all written communications exchanged between the War Office and officials and officers in South Africa, and all such written communications exchanged between the Colonial Office and the War Office, and between the Colonial Office and any of the authorities in British South Africa, with regard to sales and refunds to contractors in South Africa.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The documents to which the hon. Gentleman refers will be laid before the Commission, but not before the House of Commons. Why should they?

MR. LABOUCHERE: Will all the documents be laid before the Commission as soon as it sits.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course every effort will be made to supply the Commission with all information of every sort, kind, or description which will aid them in their inquiry.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Will the documents be published?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: They will be laid before the Commission, and I suppose the Commission will publish what it chooses. I am not at this moment able to do more than say that I should think if they are thought relevant they will be placed in the volume of evidence.

The Secretary for War's Preface to the Butler Report.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Secretary of State for War, in prefacing with a statement of his own the Report presented to Parliament of the Committee appointed by the Army Council to consider the question of sales and refunds to contractors in South Africa, made this departure from ordinary practice as a Departmental act in which he could presume the concurrence of his colleagues in the Cabinet, or was the Prime Minister made personally cognisant of the intended publication of this preface, and was the concurrence of the Cabinet to the intended publication ascertained; and, if the intended publication of this preface comes within the cognisance of the Prime Minister or under the review of the Cabinet, what explanation, if any, is there for the publication of a preface by a member of the Cabinet to the Report of a Departmental Committee in criticism of the findings and conclusions of that Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The note to which the hon. Gentleman refers was referred to me and had my entire approval, and in my opinion nothing less than that would have been necessary in order to prevent gross misconception on the part of the public. I am not quite sure whether even that was sufficient.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is there any precedent for the publication by a member of the Cabinet of a Report with a note criticising the conclusions of such a Committee?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I see no reason why a member of the Cabinet should not criticise; but, as a matter of fact, this was not a criticism.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The object of this preface was not then, as it purports to be, to save the interest of persons involved, but to prevent a misconception on the part of the public, which is another matter altogether.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is exactly the same matter. The injury which possibly might have been done to the individual consisted of a misconception on the part of the public with regard to the Report. To prevent that misconception was the object of the preface.

Royal Commission Precedents.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now cite the precedents on which he relies for the proposed issue of a Royal Commission empowering the nominees of the Ministry to investigate into its political *laches* or conduct, or that of any of its members, either without or with the concurrence of the House of Commons or of Parliament.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I rather imagined that the hon. Member would not put this Question. I thought he belonged to that section of the House which considers that the conduct of the Government should be discussed by the House, before the evidence is taken, on a vote of censure. But if it is to be discussed in both ways, I may in regard to precedents remind him of the Beck case, the South African War Commission, the Military Hospitals Commission, the Ordnance Commission, 1886, and the Fugitives Slaves Commission, 1876

The House and the Appointment of the Commissioners.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the names of the Commissioners will be recited in the Bill in such a way as to allow of the House pronouncing judgment on the selection.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, the Bill will not be so drawn as to allow the House to discuss the question. The Commissioners will be mentioned in the preamble, but not so as to meet what I gather to be the desire of the hon. Gentleman.

The Powers of the Royal Commission.

Mr. BLAKE: Is it intended that the Commission shall have power to investigate and report upon the conduct of Ministers?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand this is put as an "urgency" Question. Certainly, the Commission will be at liberty to make any reflection they like, either on members of His Majesty's Government or anybody else.

Mr. BLAKE: Will the Commission be entitled to make inquiry into any matter of crime or offence cognisable by the law of this or any other country?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs): Certainly, it is one of the purposes for which the Commission is constituted.

Procedure of the Royal Commission.

Mr. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when the Royal Commission on Stores will meet, what procedure will be followed in taking and testing evidence, having regard to the alleged incompleteness of the Butler inquiry; what time will be afforded those against whom allegations have been made to prepare their answers; whether the Bill will give powers to the Commission to provide that counsel shall be heard, and, if so, whether the War Office will provide counsel for those accused officers who may not be in a position to employ counsel at the inquiry.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR; In answer to the series of Questions which the hon. Gentleman has just placed in my hands I have to say, with regard to the Question when the Royal Commission will meet, that that rests with the Commission; but, so far as I am concerned, the sooner the Commission meets the better. The procedure to be followed in obtaining and testing evidence will be the procedure which the Commission think the most fitted to attain the truth. The hon. Member's third Question is as to the time to be afforded to those against whom allegations have been made to prepare their answers. I am sure that the Commission will take care that sufficient time is given so as to prevent any injustice. With regard to the fourth Question, I believe that Commissioners of this character have power to cause counsel to be heard. Whether it will be desirable to introduce a specific provision in their reference is a matter for consideration. As to the payment of the costs of counsel for the persons brought before the Commission, I think that is a point well worthy of consideration. It is clear that injustice might be done to poor men if they were compelled to employ counsel. I will examine the question and consult with my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War as to the course that should be pursued.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: When will the Royal Commission Bill be introduced?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to be able to introduce it within a few hours. I understand it is a matter on which my right hon. and learned friend near me purposes to consult with the learned Gentleman opposite. It is a matter that does not involve controversy, and the consultation ought not to take long. I hope to introduce the Bill either to-morrow or on Wednesday.

The Royal Commission and South African Land Settlement.

Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the terms of the reference will be so drawn that the Commission to be appointed to inquire into the sale and purchase of stores in South Africa will also be empowered to inquire into the conduct of persons employed in the work of repatriation and land settlement.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think the extension of the reference the hon. Member desires is asked for by any section of public opinion. To so extend it would materially add to the labours of the Commission, and I do not recommend such an alteration.

Dr. MACNAMARA: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake there shall be an inquiry into the proceedings of the Repatriation Commission?

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): If information comes out in the course of the present inquiry making investigation into this matter necessary, will the Commission have the power to inquire?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member may rest assured that if the Commissioners make any request for an extension of the scope of their inquiry that will be acceded to.

Inspection of Welsh Yeomanry.

Colonel WYNDHAM-QUIN (Glamorganshire, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War for what reason certain regiments of Imperial Yeomanry comprised in the Welsh command have not been inspected this year by the officer appointed for that purpose; and, should it be found impossible for one officer to carry out the duty of inspecting the Yeomanry in this command, will he appoint another officer to act as assistant inspector.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Of the twelve Imperial Yeomanry regiments in the command no less than seven came out for training at the same time between May 23rd and June 9th. This was owing to the fact that the arrangements for the camps and dates of training were fixed by three different districts to which these regiments belonged before the new Welsh and Midland Command was formed, the dates being chosen by the regiments themselves. It was manifestly impossible for the staff officer for Imperial Yeomanry to see all these regiments in a week as they were camped at great distances apart. Of the twelve regiments nine were inspected by the staff officer, and special officers were deputed to inspect the three remaining regiments. It is hoped that next year arrangements will be made to obviate any difficulties of a similar character.

Militia and Volunteers—Duke of Norfolk's Commission.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how much longer it is proposed to defer taking any steps to carry out the recommendations, or any of them, of the Report of the Duke of Norfolk's Commission on Militia and Volunteers, which has been in his hands for twelve months.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I am afraid that it is not possible to state at present what steps it will be possible to take in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Norfolk Commission. As I have already explained to the House, most of the recommendations involve additional expenditure of money, and at the present time there are no funds available for the purpose. As my hon. and gallant friend is aware, the full amount of the Militia and Volunteer Vote for last year has been continued this year.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: Has any decision been come to on the Report?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, and I have announced the decision.

Efficiency of the Volunteers.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many divisions there are in the Volunteer force ready for immediate use as a field army, with their proper complement of artillery, engineers, and cavalry, and if these divisions and the brigades composing them are under the command of the generals and brigadiers, and in charge of the staff, who will be responsible for their efficiency or mobilisation, and if they have ever been or will ever be exercised together.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I am afraid the Answer must be what my hon. and gallant friend anticipates, namely: that there are no divisions of Volunteers in the state of preparedness referred to in the Question. The Army Council is now making a detailed inquiry into the condition of the various Volunteer units, with a view of ascertaining what proportion of the officers and men who compose them are fit for active service. I rely upon my hon. and gallant friend, and the officers of the Volunteer force generally, to assist the Army Council in their endeavours to improve the efficiency of the Volunteer force in the directions suggested by him, and I can assure him that I share the hopes which he evidently entertains that the Volunteers may, before long, be organised on a more effective system than that which has hitherto prevailed.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: When will this be communicated to the Volunteer force?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It has been.

General Sir E. R. Elles.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the terms of the communication received from General Sir E. R. Elles resigning his position as Military Member of the Indian Viceregal Council.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): I have not received any communication from General Sir E. R. Elles, resigning his position as member of the Council of the Governor-General of India.

Lord Curzon.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government have received any intimation from Lord Curzon of his desire or intention to resign his post as Viceroy of India.

*Mr. BRODRICK: No, Sir. There is no foundation for that report.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: It is too good to be true.

International Dairy Conference.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government has received any notice of, or invitation to, an International Dairy Conference to be held in Paris next October; and, if so, will they be prepared to nominate a delegate to such conference if asked to do so.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) His Majesty's Government have been informed of the establishment of an International Federation for the protection of the interests of the dairy industry, but have not received any invitation to send delegates to a conference on the subject at Paris. If such an invitation were received, the Government would be willing to consider the matter.

Macedonian Finance.

Mr. NOEL BUXTON (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what progress, if any, has been made in the negotiations between the Powers and the Sublime Porte in regard to the scheme of control of the finances of Macedonia.

Earl PERCY: More than a month having elapsed since the Collective Note was presented, the Ambassadors at Constantinople are making further joint representations pressing for an answer from the Turkish Government.

Exchequer Balances.

Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the sum locked up in Exchequer Balances, amounting to £9,075,000 on June 20th, 1905, as against £5,591,000 on June 18th, 1904, he will take steps to reduce the floating debt created in the form of Treasury bills.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The Exchequer Balance is specially increased this year by the receipts from the recent issue of Exchequer bonds. Those receipts will be required later on for paying off the Exchequer bonds which mature this year. Advantage has been taken of the state of our balances to drop a certain number of Treasury bills temporarily. It would not be possible to drop more of these bills without having to reissue them in the autumn in quantities which would be very inconvenient to the market. Last year, owing to the depleted state of the Exchequer Balance, it was necessary to borrow large sums for payment of the July dividends. This year no such borrowing will be required.

MR. McCRAE: Is any interest receivable on these large sums?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir.

Canon Greenwell and Motor-Cyclists.

MR. DUNCAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the fact that Canon Greenwell, presiding over the Durham Bench of Magistrates, had said, when sentencing two motor-cyclists for driving their machines at excessive speed, that it would not be a bad plan if some of them were shot; and if he proposes to take any action in the matter.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper—

MR. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the statement of the Rev. Canon Greenwell, presiding at the Durham County Bench of Magistrates on the 21st instant, that it would not be a bad plan if a few motorists were shot; and, if so, whether it is proposed to remove the Rev. Canon Greenwell from the commission of the peace.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY (Lancashire, Ormskirk): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to certain remarks, advocating the shooting of motorists, made by Canon Greenwell when sitting as a magistrate at the Durham County Police Court on the 21st instant; and, if so, what action he intends to take.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Perhaps I may answer this, and the Questions of the hon. Members for the Oswestry Division and the Ormskirk Division, together. I understand from Canon Greenwell that what he actually said was as follows:—"I do not think I should be inclined to follow the advice of Lord Queensberry, but if some of these reckless drivers, who destroy the comfort and endanger the life of other travellers, were shot, I am not sure we should say that much harm was done." Canon Greenwell has explained to me that his remark was not made seriously, and that no one in Court regarded it as being made seriously. I think this is obvious, and though I cannot approve of such remarks being made from the Bench, even in jest, I do not think that any further action is called for.

Bail for Prisoners.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that several Judges have recently expressed strong opinions on the conduct of magistrates in refusing to admit prisoners to bail; and whether he will issue a circular to all justices urging upon them the advisability of granting bail in all suitable cases, and especially of acting in accordance with the spirit of the Bail Act, 1898.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I would refer the hon. Member to the printed Answer which I gave on May 2nd † last year, to a Question on this subject put to me by the hon. Member for West Carmarthen. The views of the Home Office and of the Judges on this subject are well known to justices, and I have no reason to think that they fail generally to act upon them. I do not, therefore, think that any useful purpose would be served by the issue of another circular at the present time. It seems to me better that the Department should continue to watch the working of the Bail Act, 1898, and should call the attention of the justices to any individual cases of hardship that may come to its notice.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxxiv., 93.

Medical and Dentists' Registers.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, having regard to the fact that during recent years twenty names have been struck off the Medical Register for infamous conduct in a professional respect, whilst six names were removed from the Dentists' Register for a similar cause, will he state in how many instances the names were removed on charges of adultery.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The answer is—from the Medical Register, in four cases; from the Dental Register, in none.

Police and Motor-Car Drivers.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps, by legislation or otherwise, to secure that the police shall institute the prosecutions in all cases against motor-car drivers who may contravene the law, and to secure that a person who may be injured or run over by a motor-car need not apply personally to a magistrate for a summons.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: A summons calling on any one to answer a criminal charge is issued in pursuance of an information laid by someone who is personally cognisant of the facts alleged to constitute the offence charged. I see no reason for making an exception to the general law with regard to charges against motor-car drivers; nor can I issue instructions to the police to prosecute in every case of an alleged offence brought to their notice. It is their duty to enforce the law, but the question of the cases in which it is proper for them to prosecute must be left to their discretion.

GENERAL LAURIE: How are proceedings to be initiated against motor drivers who break the law, and who is to do it?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The person who sees the offence committed. The police will use their best efforts when their attention is called to a case. There is no holding back on the part of the police.

GENERAL LAURIE: If the attention of the police is called to a case, have they authority to act, and will they do so?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Certainly they will act; but, as I have said, the question whether they will prosecute must be left to their discretion.

Canadian Agricultural Products.

MR. BRIGHT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can give any information to show whether or not the local demand in Canada for butter, cheese, cattle, and oats, is increasing at the present time more rapidly than the production of those commodities.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): There is no official information available which would enable me to answer this Question.

Customs Regulations.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether His Majesty's Custom-House will arrange that the whole duty on dutiable articles which a passenger has declared that he has in his possession shall not be insisted upon if the passenger offers to surrender those which he does not wish to retain, and to pay the duty on those he wishes to keep.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): The Board of Customs have issued no regulations disallowing the acceptance of duty on a portion of the dutiable articles brought by a passenger.

Customs Watchers' Grievances.

Mr. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state what, if any, concessions he is prepared to make in answer to the petition of the Customs watchers.

Mr. CAUSTON: I beg also to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will now give an answer to the petition of the upper section non-pensioner watchers which was presented in November last.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The Treasury is now engaged in considering certain proposals, submitted within the last few days by the Board of Customs, affecting the staff of that Department. I will expedite matters as much as possible.

The Education Department and the Court of the University of Wales.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether certain of His Majesty's inspectors in the service of the Board of Education who had been duly elected members of the Court of the University of Wales were requested by him to resign their membership of the Court; if so, will he say when, and explain why they were so requested; whether he is aware that before the said inspectors resigned their membership of the Court notices had been issued for a meeting of the Court at Shrewsbury on Friday the 9th June, at which questions affecting the administration of the University were to be discussed and determined; and that the bodies of persons who had, under the Charter of the University of Wales, duly elected the said inspectors to represent them on the said Court could not before the 9th June elect other persons in their places; did any correspondence take place between the Board of Education and any member of the Court other than the inspectors in question in reference to their occupying the position of members of the Court; if so, with what member or members of the Court did such correspondence take place; and will he lay the correspondence upon the Table.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir William Anson, Oxford University): The resignations referred to were effected in consequence of instructions from the Board given during the first week in June. The Board are of opinion that it is undesirable that His Majesty's inspectors should take part in public meetings or as members of local bodies in matters of local controversy. I am aware of the circumstances referred to by the hon. Member, and regret any inconvenience which may have been occasioned to the bodies who were represented by the inspectors in question; but having regard to the contentious character of the matters which were coming up for discussion at the Court, the Board consider that the instructions given were necessary. No correspondence on the subject passed between the Board and any other member of the Court.

The Ancient Walls of Berwick-on-Tweed.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether the attention of His Majesty's Government has been called to the intention announced by the Town Council of Berwick-on-Tweed to sell for building purposes a piece of land on which there stands parts of the ancient walls of that town, dating from the time of King Edward the First; and whether, having regard to the great interest of these walls as being one of the best examples of mediæval fortifications still left in this country, His Majesty's Government will take such steps as are within their power to prevent the destruction of this important monument of antiquity.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire Chorley): The Answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. His Majesty's Government have entered into an agreement with the town council by which they have succeeded in preserving the most interesting portions of the remains of the fortifications, including the Bell Tower; and it does not appear to be possible to do anything more at present.

Scottish Churches Bill—Constitution of the Royal Commission.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate what are the names of the Commissioners under the Scottish Churches Bill; and when will the Bill be proceeded with.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.): May I at the same time ask the Lord-Advocate whether he is now in a position to state the names of the members of the Commission to be appointed under the Churches (Scotland) Bill.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): The Government are anxious that the Bill should be proceeded with as early as possible, but I am advised by the Prime Minister that he cannot at present fix the precise date for taking the Second Reading. His Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the following as Commissioners in the event of the Bill becoming law:—The Earl of Elgin (Chairman), Lord Kinnear, Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bart., Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael, Bart., Sir Charles B. Logan.

Sea Carriage of Fish from Stornoway.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, in view of the statement contained in the letter addressed by the Secretary for Scotland to the Chairman of the Lewis Local Committee on 15th February, 1904, will he state whether it has yet been found possible to secure a reduction in the rates charged for the sea carriage of fish from Stornoway.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: This matter has been very carefully inquired into since February, 1904, but I regret I am unable to give the hon. Member any assurances as to the probability of a reduction of the rates in question.

Compulsory Attendance at Highland Schools.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if the Education Department will consider the expediency of enabling school boards in the Highland crofting counties to extend the age for compulsory attendance at school to seven years where the climatic conditions and the distance to be traversed render such a course desirable.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The matter will be considered, but in the view of the Department, as at present advised, there are great difficulties in the way of making any alteration of the law such as is suggested by the hon. Member.

The Irish Land Judge's Court.

COLONEL NOLAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if his attention has been drawn to the statement of Judge Ross that sales in his Court are blocked for a want of £600,000 credit; and if he could obtain this credit for Judge Ross without infringing on the claims of other vendors to priority.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): At the request of my right hon. friend, I will reply to this Question, and will at the same time answer the Questions of the hon. Members for Mid. Armagh and East Kenny. It would be impossible, without grave injustice to other vendors, to appropriate out of the comparatively small sum immediately available a sum of £600,000 to those vendors who may sell through the Land Judge's Court. The temporary insufficiency of funds is not due to any regulations which have been issued. The whole matter is engaging the most anxious consideration of the Government.

The following are the other Questions referred to—

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the statement by Mr. Justice Ross, that the business of his Court must shortly come to a standstill, owing to the intimation he had received from the Estates Commissioners that they could not reserve £600,000 out of the annual Government grant, pending the winding-up of estates in the Land Judge's Court; and what steps the

Government propose to take to prevent the threatened deadlock.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to recent proceedings in the Land Judge's Court, in Dublin, relating to the insufficiency of funds for the purpose of carrying on sales of estates in Court; whether this insufficiency is caused by any new regulations issued to the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, or in any event, whether he proposes to take any steps to expedite the winding-up of this Court in accordance with the Resolution agreed to by Parliament.

Irish Arterial Drainage.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has taken any steps to appoint the Commissioners to inquire into the subject of arterial drainage in Ireland; and, if so, can he now state their names and qualifications, and give the terms of their reference; also whether he has considered the advisability of introducing a Bill to give to joint local authorities in Ireland the powers of drainage boards in respect of areas affected by the overflowing of rivers running through their several jurisdictions, especially with the view of making the Irish Development Grant available as a fund in aid of operations by such boards.

MR. WALTER LONG: The terms of reference are under consideration, and until these have been settled the Commission cannot be appointed. Legislation will be necessary for carrying out any reforms in the existing system, but it will obviously be impracticable to introduce legislation in the present session.

Limavady Justices.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what official informed him as to the number and religious composition of the justices of the peace in Limavady, county Derry; and whether he can state the names of the six Episcopalians, three Presbyterians, and one Catholic on the Bench in that district.

MR. WALTER LONG: The information was procured from the Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper, who obtained it by private inquiry, there being no official record of the religious persuasion of magistrates. Further inquiry has since been made, from which it appears that the magistrate who was believed to be a Catholic is not one. The composition of the Bench should be returned as six members of the Irish Church, four Presbyterians, and one Methodist. It is not the practice to state the names of the individuals belonging to each religious denomination. The Lord Chancellor is always glad to consider the names of properly qualified gentlemen which may be brought before him.

Irish Police and Motor-Cars.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether two motor-cars, driven by district inspectors of the Royal Irish Constabulary, are now running experimentally, a record being kept of the mileage, the failures, and the accidents; and, if so, what has been the cost of these motor-cars, in what Estimate will that cost be included, and from what firms have these motor-cars been bought by the Constabulary authorities, and by whose direction and by whose suggestion were they purchased; whether the Royal Irish Constabulary authorities are contemplating the equipment of district and county inspectors with motor-cars; and, if so, what will be the initial and annual expenditure likely to be incurred by such equipment; and whether, having regard to the loss of life, damage to property, and injury to roads occasioned by motor-car driving, before any steps are taken for this change involving expenditure of public money, the House of Commons will be given an opportunity of expressing its views on the proposed change, and will be furnished with an estimate of the probable cost such change will entail.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Answer to the first inquiry is in the negative. In January last it was arranged, with Treasury sanction, that the use of motor-cars by officers should be tested in two counties as an experiment, the intention being that, if the plan proved unobjectionable, officers should be allowed the option of keeping either horses or motor-cars. Officers who should choose to use motorcars were to be allowed to obtain them at their own expense, on the express understanding, however, that the existing allowances, namely, a forage allowance of £50, and a servant's allowance of £45, were not to be increased. These allowances are borne on the Constabulary Vote. Difficulties have arisen in making the proposed experiment, and nothing has been done.

Orange Disturbances at Coalisland.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it has come to his knowledge that a party of Orangemen stoned Mr. Harkin's Hotel, Coalisland, on the 3rd instant, causing considerable damage to the building and terror and danger to the inmates, as, though the district is proclaimed, pistol shots were fired concurrently with the stone-throwing; can he state how many of those rioters can be identified by the police and local persons; and whether steps have yet been taken to prosecute them.

MR. WALTER LONG: Several slates and panes of glass were broken in Mr. Harkin's public-house by the followers of an Orange band. On the same evening shots were fired outside the town by members of both Parties. The disturbance was of short duration. The offenders ran away on the approach of the police, who could neither identify, nor obtain evidence against, them. No prosecution, therefore, has been instituted.

The Garvagh Murder.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the murder of Mrs. Kate Hassan by her son at Garvagh, county Derry, and to the evidence of the police that they had no power of controlling the sale of ether in the neighbourhood; and, if so, will he take steps to have the law made effective.

MR. WALTER LONG: The statement attributed to the police is not quite accurate. Sulphuric ether is scheduled as a poison under Part II. of the Sale of Poisons (Ireland) Act, 1870, the result being that its sale is prohibited except by qualified druggists, and in bottles labelled "Poison," under a penalty not exceeding £5 for the first offence, and £10 for the second and subsequent offences. There appears to be some reason to believe that ether is secretly sold by unqualified persons in the district referred to, and the police have been instructed to use every effort to bring offenders to justice.

Belfast Post Office—Late-Fee Letter Box.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the inconvenience to the public of Belfast due to the failure of the department to provide a late-fee letter box convenient to the receiver at the front counter of the Belfast office, he will give instructions for the placing of such a box forthwith.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): As stated in my reply to a similar Question asked by the hon. Member on the 17th of February,† 1904, a late-fee letter box is already provided in Garfield Street beside the large letter boxes for general posting. An additional late-fee box at the public counter seems unnecessary, and I am not aware that any inconvenience is occasioned by the absence of such a box.

MR. SLOAN: Is the noble Lord aware that the general public are continually asking where the box in Garfield Street is placed?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

MR. SLOAN: Will he inquire?

LORD STANLEY: I have already done so.

Dublin Law Courts Clerkships.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state if it is intended to fill any future vacancies in clerkships in the

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† See *Debates* (4) cxxx., 21.

Dublin Law Courts by the transfer of second division clerks.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: So far as I am aware there is no such intention.

The Sinking of British Steamers by Russian Cruisers.

Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is in a position to make any statement with respect to the demands made by His Majesty's Government on behalf of the owners and crews of British merchant ships unjustifiably seized, detained, or destroyed by Russian cruisers, or with respect to measures taken to prevent a repetition of these outrages. The hon. Member explained he was only asking for general information.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: May I ask whether the Prime Minister can now answer a Question with regard to the "Knight Commander," which was sunk in July last, and with respect to which he said in August last that he expected reparation would be made?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no doubt there will be reparation; but I do not think it would be possible to give in answer to a Question a general statement entirely fulfilling the intention or the phraseology of the Question of the hon. Member; and I am glad to be able to inform him and the House that we have the best reason for knowing that the Russian Government disapprove of the course taken by these cruisers, and that orders have been transmitted to the "Dnieper" at Jibuti which will render it quite impossible for any repetition on the part of that vessel of these outrages, as we think, on international law.

The National Gallery.

Colonel STOPFORD SACKVILLE (Northamptonshire, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the National Gallery has been without a director since December 31st, 1904, he is now in a position to make any announcement as to the arrangements proposed for its future management.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am advised by the trustees that the matter is still under their consideration and that they are not yet in a position to announce their future arrangements.

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the fact that the Government have introduced the Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill several years in succession, will he state whether the Government propose to proceed with the Bill this session.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot make any statement with regard to this Bill.

Office of Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of making the tenure of the office of Director of Public Prosecutions the same as that of Comptroller and Auditor-General, viz.: during good behaviour, and removable only on an Address by both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; I do not think any ground has yet been shown for the change to be made in our machinery for criminal prosecutions which the hon. Gentleman desires. I have, therefore, no intention of making it.

Votes of Censure.

Sir CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in order to save time, he will allocate Monday in each week to the discussion of the usual vote of censure.

[No Answer was returned.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN asked as to the arrangements for business.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said it was proposed to take Committee on the Aliens Bill on Tuesday and Wednesday, and for financial reasons it would be necessary to take Vote 8 for the Navy on Thursday, the Post Office set down for that day being postponed for a week. Probably the Aliens Bill would be taken on Monday next.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I was under the impression that for weeks the arrangement had been to take the Post Office Vote next week.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe that was the arrangement provisionally made, but circumstances having rendered it necessary to postpone it my right hon. friend the Patronage Secretary of the Treasury communicated the fact to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Leeds. The House will understand we do this with great regret, but I hope to take the Post Office Vote on Thursday week.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): Was I not given a definite promise by the Postmaster - General, which was communicated to me by the Secretary to the Treasury, that the Post Office Vote should be taken next Thursday. May we rely on it being taken next week, or will the date be again shifted to the great inconvenience of Members.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington): Yes, there was a definite arrangement made, and I much regret that circumstances have arisen which necessitate a change of date.

CAPTAIN NORTON: May I take it definitely that it will be put down for Thursday in next week.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR assented.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

John Muldoon, esquire, for the county of Donegal (North Donegal Division).

NEW BILLS.

COMPANIES ACTS (AMENDMENT) (DENTISTS) BILL.

"To prohibit Joint Stock Companies from carrying on practice as dentists except by means of duly qualified persons," presented by Sir John Tuke; supported by Sir John Brunner, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Sir Michael Foster, and Sir Walter Foster; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 5th July, and to be printed. [Bill 250.]

COMPANIES ACTS (AMENDMENT) (PHYSICIANS, ETC.) BILL.

"To prohibit Joint Stock Companies from acting as Physicians, Surgeons, or medical practitioners," presented by Sir John Tuke; supported by Sir John Brunner, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Sir Michael Foster, and Sir Walter Foster; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 5th July, and to be printed. [Bill 251.]

SOUTH AFRICA (SALES AND REFUNDS).

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) rose to move, "That the conduct of His Majesty's Government in connection with the supply and disposal of stores, and the sales and refunds to contractors in South Africa at the end of the war, and their failure to inquire promptly into and deal with those transactions, deserve the censure of this House." He said: I desire to state with as much clearness and brevity as I can command, the ground on which I have placed this Motion upon the Paper. Between the end of the war in 1902 and the end of the year 1903, there were sales and repurchases of stores in South Africa which were of quite an extraordinary character, the main facts with regard to which have not been disputed, and are not capable of being disputed because they rest upon documents and accounts. There are disputes, no doubt, with regard to the details connected with these transactions and many of the surrounding transactions. There are also disputes in regard to the division of responsibility among officers on the spot, and as regards the character of the contractors who were engaged in these different concerns. I do not propose to enter into those questions. The House of Commons is not the place in which we can enter into the detailed transactions of individuals who are not present, or allocate blame to them in regard to the transactions in which they have been concerned. Nor can we sift minute evidence, or come to a fair judgment as between man and man. Therefore I am extremely glad that the Government has at last, after what I regard as quite an inexcusable interval of delay, appointed a competent and well-qualified Commission to investigate these subjects and come to their conclusions. But when I hear it suggested that the House of Commons should postpone their inquiry into the responsibility and conduct of Ministers of the State because a Royal Commission has been appointed which has the right of considering their conduct as well as that of everybody else, I say that is not only an unconstitutional doctrine, but, upon the face of it, that it is quite inadmissible. Ministers are responsible to the House of Commons and can answer for themselves, and this is the only place in the British Empire in which they can be called to account and can be constrained to answer for their doings.

It is right that I should state at once the nature of the charges which I put forward against Ministers. Of course there is no suggestion that they intended to connive at corruption, or anything of that kind. But what I do say is that if Ministers had been competent and reasonably attentive to their great duties the things complained of could not have happened, or, if they had happened, must have been detected and stopped at once under any system of reasonable supervision. I say also that the substance of these transactions was well known in the War Office two years ago, and I think there must have been strong ground for suspicion before then; and that by their dilatory action for nearly two years Ministers have postponed the publicity which is so necessary to prevent the recurrence of things of this character, and have postponed the punishment of those, if there are any, who have been guilty. The subject of this Motion is restricted to a particular class of the transactions, although the loss of money to the State has probably been very great by reason of these transactions, and I propose to limit my criticism within the same compass. But I think it is necessary to remind the House that at the time when these things took place there had been many other transactions which were called and generally recognised to be, in part at least, scandals of an administrative character well known to Ministers and to the House of Commons. This is not an isolated case. There have been the breakdown of the medical service, the hay contracts, the remounts, the transactions of the Cold Storage Company, the questions of forage, of transport, of freight, of jam, and of emergency rations.

There have been many discussions in this House on these subjects. Notably there was the debate on March 17th and 18th, 1902, before the war was ended, in which my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the questions of remounts, meat, forage, freights, and transport. He was met by the present Secretary of State for India with the criticism, which was common in those days, that he was encouraging the enemies of his country. The Secretary of State for India beat the big drum in the usual way, but there is a hole in the big drum now, and we do not now hear quite so much of that kind of unjust criticism. But at that time the Secretary of State for India, and the noble Lord who is now Postmaster-General, promised a full inquiry into all the transactions of the War Office in the war—the right hon. Gentleman, indeed, demanded it as a matter of right for the War Office. That was in March, 1902, and we are now in June, 1905. There was, indeed, an inquiry by the Royal Commission of which Lord Elgin was Chairman, but that was limited—I do not say it was improperly limited—in its scope and did not touch the subjects we discussed in March, 1902. Most of these scandals took place before the end of the war; and, therefore, in the summer of 1902, Ministers were well aware of the pitfalls that surrounded them. They knew that, while the people of this country, rich and poor alike, were making sacrifices either of blood or treasure, there were not only honest contractors who were fulfilling a legitimate duty in supplying the troops, but others of another class who were prowling about the Army and the departments of State anxious to make an unclean profit out of the sacrifices of the country. They knew then that there was a necessity for careful vigilance and supervision to prevent fraud.

I will tell shortly the story of what occurred at the time when the war ended. In June, 1902, there were immense Government stores in South Africa, sufficient to supply 300,000 men and 200,000 animals for a period of four months. The troops were being very greatly diminished, and by the end of November, 1902, they had been reduced to 65,000. The country itself was denuded entirely of supplies, and the agricultural stock had been almost entirely destroyed. Accordingly, Lord Kitchener, who is an excellent man of business and who has had a similar experience, I believe, in the Sudan, suggested that, in this promising market, the surplus stores should be sold, and expressed the anticipation that a sum of between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000 would be realised by the sale. Of course Lord Kitchener thought the benefit of a good market would be obtained by this country. I desire to lay emphasis on the word "surplus," for what was to be sold were the supplies that were not needed for our own purposes. Lord Kitchener also said that the future needs of the troops ought to be, or might best be, provided for by local contracts. That was assented to by the War Office; and they gave directions, in a telegram of July 31st, 1902, that monthly accounts were to be sent home of the totals sold and of the prices and amounts realised. I must say that it was a foolish thing not to send out a special staff of persons properly qualified to deal with this immense mass of material, and that it ought not to have been left to the first comer. It was left to a gentleman whose name I do not wish to bring into the debate—an officer who succeeded Colonel Morgan in the autumn of 1902—because the War Office authority who was called before the Butler Committee stated that he was not qualified personally and expressed the view that what took place was due to his entire incapacity for the position he filled.

The Army Service officers set about selling the produce, but, as soon as they began doing so, a ring was set up against them so as to prevent good prices being realised. There is a statement, which does not rest upon direct testimony and which I hope may prove unfounded, that the Chamber of Commerce of Johannesburg actually sent a letter round to their members telling them not to bid for the Government stores. I am not going to say it is not true; I hope the Royal Commission will find out whether it is true. Under these circumstances there was no market, but the War Office could not prevail upon themselves to depart from the rule laid down officially that they were to sell this produce. The officers in South Africa, finding the market closed against them, took this course—a course which would have seemed incredible if it were not attested by evidence. They decided to buy supplies on forward contracts from certain firms and also agreed to sell the same supplies to the same firms to enable them to carry out those contracts. I do not mean for a moment that all the stores that were sold were resold to us, but a great quantity of the stores that were sold by us were resold to us at greatly enhanced prices, and often without being moved from the places where the goods were stored. I will give an illustration without mentioning the name of the firm. The British Government bought from this firm oats for 60,000 horses at 17s. 11¾d. At the same time we were selling them oats at 11s., which they handed again to us at 17s. 11d., without, in some cases, any change in the custody of the stores. That is an illustration. It was the same with other firms, it was the same with other articles, and it was done obviously and admittedly on a large scale. What occurs to one is why should not something else have been done with these stores. There was the Repatriation Department, and the concentration camps had not been closed. Why was not the material handed over to be used by the Repatriation Department? It was stated in evidence that Lord Milner refused to allow this upon the ground, if you please, that it was not fair to the South African merchants?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Is there any evidence of that statement?

SIR ROBERT REID: Yes, there were two if not three witnesses before the Committee, one of whom said he was present at the conversation, at which Lord Kitchener and Colonel Morgan were also present, and heard the conversation. I am not affecting to treat it as a matter which has been established, but if it were true, what does it mean? We are to find the money, to recruit the men who go out and risk their lives, we are the arsenal to find the materials, and yet the British taxpayer is not even to be considered to the extent of being allowed to use his own stores for his own purpose. A natural suggestion is, why should not these stores have been used by our troops? They were perfectly good stores, only the good ones were sold, the contracts provided that. It seems almost incredible that that course was not followed. Colonel Buist, the officer commanding the Army Service Corps in the Transvaal, stated in evidence before the Committee (page 222)—

> "We could have gone on issuing from our stocks perfectly well without a contractor."

And when asked—

> "How did it strike you . . . that we should sell the Government supplies one day, and buy them back afterwards at an enhanced price?"

Colonel Buist replied—

> "The only reason I could possibly think of was that they wanted to get into the contract system as soon as possible, and there was no one in a position to contract; local stuff was unprocurable, and the result was that they practically had to make contractors. I think that was the object. I think they wanted to slide from the old system and get into the contract system, and to do that it was necessary to make contractors by selling them supplies."

Let us see what sort of contractors were made by this process. These are descriptions of several of them—one was a butcher by trade, a person of undesirable character; another was a very difficult man to get money from; and another was a racing man who was somewhat addicted to drink. These contractors, after they had got the goods, made large claims for refunds, and refunds were paid which, according to the Butler Committee, were without equity or foundation, and some of the transactions seem to be extraordinary. And all this time, while we were making contractors by selling them supplies, in order that they might resell them to us when we had abundance of stores, fresh cargoes kept pouring into South Africa—though not from Great Britain—to the end of November, 1902. Cargoes of oats were sent up from Durban, mostly to Pretoria, and when they got there they played their part in the making of contractors. In one case oats, coming, I believe, from Australia, were brought to Durban, the freight thither paid and the Customs dues, and then the railway charge from Durban to Pretoria was 1s. 10d. per 100 lbs., and that was paid. What happened? The price realised for the cargo at Pretoria was 1s. 6d. per 100lbs., 4d. less than the railway rate from Durban to Pretoria!

This is very strange and painful reading. I omit details, I only take broad facts; but I ask the House to fix its attention on the broad fact, and upon the proceedings and conduct of Ministers in connection with it. To sell stores to a man at low prices which he was to resell to us at high prices—how can that transaction be justified under any possible conditions? It was a time when Ministers knew by former experience the necessity of vigilance, and the transactions were upon a very large scale. The total expected to be realised by Lord Kitchener was between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000, and it can hardly be said that so large a transaction was beneath the notice of a Secretary of State. This system of sale and resale bore the badge of suspicion—I do not think I should be going too far if I said it bore upon it all the badges of fraud. It would have aroused suspicion in most people. To buy at one price and to sell at a 50 per cent. lower price, and to be doing that repeatedly and upon a large scale, was a transaction at the first inkling of which any man of business would prick up his ears and set about making the necessary investigations.

Well, all this time monthly returns were being made to the War Office, There was an order on July 31st, 1902, that monthly returns should be sent stating the amount sold and the prices realised in the month. That order was not obeyed after about the month of September, 1902. I do not find any steps or action taken by the War Office to insist upon those particulars being furnished in accordance with the order, though there may have been other returns which came month by month. I gather that these were the cash and supply accounts; at all events, some materials came to the War Office. In April, 1903, Colonel Dunne, the Assistant Quartermaster-General in London, was—

> "Amazed to find that they were using the contracts when they had such large stock on hand." (p.498.)

Colonel Dunne could not understand it, nor could any one else. But there was no further action of any kind.

In October, 1903, the present Secretary for War took office, and the right hon. Gentleman told us last Friday that the day he became aware that any charge was levelled against the contractors he caused a Committee of inquiry to be appointed. The right hon. Gentleman has also told us that it was in January, 1905, that he became of opinion that there ought to be a special inquiry, and then the Butler Committee was appointed. I think, however, there must either be a lapse of memory on the part of the right hon. Gentleman, or else he puts a very different construction upon facts to that which I myself put. I should be inclined to say that from the very first day on which the present Secretary of State for War took office he must have known that there were grave circumstances of suspicion in connection with these transactions in South Africa. Before October 1st, 1903, the War Office knew enough to telegraph to General Lyttelton—

> "Central supply account June last shows large sales of hay, bran, and meal to contractors and purchase of same class articles from same persons at higher prices."

I should have thought that pretty good proof that the War Office in September, 1903, knew the substance of these transactions. The answer was to the effect that this business saved money to the State. But the report which was asked for by post does not seem to have been sent. It was quite evident the War Office took a very serious view of the business in 1903, because Sir Fleetwood Wilson, head of the Finance Department of the War Office, was called to give evidence before the Public Accounts Committee and he said the first case of buying and selling by the same firm was taken up by the War Office in September, 1903. Suspicion was aroused in his mind that there might be something wrong and that things required further investigation. He added that in September, 1903, he first began to realise that it was a serious thing, and he added, in reply to the hon. and learned Member for South Longford, that he then knew of two out of three of the cases which figured in the Butler Report. Consequently, this information was available for the right hon. Gentleman the very day he entered the War Office. I do not for a moment suppose the right hon. Gentleman will say he was not informed of these things by his officers at the time. According to the statement of Sir Fleetwood Wilson, from September, 1903, onward, they kept on inquiring, but it was not until December, 1904, that he thought a special inquiry was needed, the reason being because, he said, all he could do was to look at and examine documents. He could not examine witnesses. After a period of sixteen months the War Office came to the opinion that some inquiry should be made by persons who could ask questions. Sir Fleetwood Wilson's explanation of delay ought to be given in justice to him. He said considerable delay in all cases in regard to South Africa was inevitable, and that six months was a perfectly reasonable time for elucidating one point. If this is the pace at which the War Office goes in regard to South Africa, all the more necessity for a prompt and early inquiry by some Select Committee. In September, 1903, the War Office admittedly knew quite enough to make the appointment of a competent inquiry necessary; and there was no excuse for postponement until January, 1905.

But all this time other things were happening also. An action was brought on in South Africa; and there were some severe comments by the Chief Justice of the Transvaal, and Colonel Morgan brought an action against *The Times* newspaper. My sympathies are not especially tender with regard to *The Times*, nor do I wish to say a word with regard to Colonel Morgan's action; but one danger of putting these things before the public in this way is that comment is so dangerous as to be impossible. All criticism is suspended by the peril of having to pay damages for an action. In March, 1904, the Comptroller and Auditor-General sent a query to the War Office containing quite a list of sales and repurchases from the same firm, but no answer was sent. This query referred to a former query of the year 1901–2, and therefore the knowledge of these things may be somewhat earlier than we suppose.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): The query of December, 1903, is still unanswered.

SIR ROBERT REID: The first query was in December, 1903, and the other was in March, 1904.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I am wrong; there has been an answer to it.

SIR ROBERT REID: The query of March, 1904, was unanswered in January, 1905, and there was a later query in 1904, to which no answer was made. There was still a third query in 1904, and the Comptroller and Auditor-General asked to see the contract. I cannot understand what possible objection there could be to his seeing the contract, but in his Report he says it had not yet been transmitted to his Department. On January 21st, 1905, the Comptroller and Auditor-General published his Report; and it stated in substance the very same things which are stated over and over again in the Butler Report. Why was not a Committee appointed before? In December, 1903, at least, the facts were known, but not till June, 1905, was any officer dismissed, censured, suspended, or relieved, and the same contractors were still being employed and no investigations of any competent character were made. Would any private firm carry on its business in this manner? Could it possibly exist outside the Bankruptcy Court for more than six months if it did? Suppose any of our municipalities with whom we are so particular were to carry on business in this fashion, what should we say about it in the House of Commons? I think I can hear the indignant rhetoric of hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House. From September, 1903, down to January, 1905, Sir Fleetwood Wilson and the War Office were making a sort of internal examination, but they were powerless because they could not examine witnesses. Then Sir William Butler's Committee was appointed; and it lasted four or five months. It made only a partial Report; and in substance all it said was known before, and now we are to have a Royal Commission. At first the Commission was not to have power to inquire on oath, or to procure documents, or to compel witnesses to attend, but under pressure of Questions the Government consented that those powers should be bestowed, which I think is perfectly right.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Only if the House is going to give them without prolonged controversy.

SIR ROBERT REID: It is not for me to advise the Government, but if the Ministry put any difficulties in the way of the most complete and searching inquiry it will not enhance its credit. I speak with the authority of a private Member only, but for my part I do not see the least reason for anticipating any difficulties in regard to the clauses to be inserted in the Bill provided they are of a usual and formal kind. I do not think the Government are at present in a position to force terms on the Opposition in regard to this matter. How long is this new Commission to take? They have an immense field to cover. They have many cases to inquire into, because we are told that at present we have not obtained nearly all the information upon all the cases of this character, and their sittings will last for six, twelve, or even eighteen months. If it proceeds at the same rate as Sir Fleetwood Wilson estimated that the War Office proceeded it will last to eternity, or even beyond that, till a general election. In the meantime can anyone suppose that this Royal Commission with the inquiries it has to make ought in the slightest degree to fetter the action of the House of Commons in dealing with the responsibility of Ministers? My only doubt is whether there is such a thing as the responsibility of Ministers. At one time the responsibility was real, and the penalties for neglect very severe, but that was in the olden days. We have left all that. Ministers are expected to make use of businesslike habits and to be competent and vigilant in the administration of their Departments; and when a matter of importance is raised and facts are brought to their knowledge they ought to make businesslike arrangements for the public and, above all, to safeguard the public against imposition.

I have confined myself to a statement of the facts in this matter. I have endeavoured to put my own view before the House, which is that the system under which this vast amount of stores was disposed of must be inexcusable and the delay in dealing with it equally inexcusable. I do not think the Government have been fair to the country or loyal to the House of Commons. Some of my hon. friends are sanguine that the House may be prepared to condemn these transactions. I do not in the least entertain any such idea, for whatever may be the state of efficiency of the War Office, there is no doubt about the efficiency of the Department over which the Patronage Secretary presides. The right hon. Gentleman has introduced a system of discipline into this House which is unknown in any Continental army, and that is the reason for my apprehension that, notwithstanding the plain character of the transactions to which I have been referring, the majority of the House will, as they have done so often before, again shield the Administration from the just displeasure of the country.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the conduct of His Majesty's Government in connection with the supply and disposal of Stores and the Sales and Refunds to Contractors in South Africa at the end of the war, and their failure to inquire promptly into and deal with those transactions, deserve the censure of this House."—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)

MR. BRODRICK: In rising to reply to the indictment of the hon. and learned Member, I desire to notice at the outset the moderate terms in which his speech has been framed and his obvious desire to restrict himself to a fair consideration of the position, excluding so far as he could the consideration of those cases which will shortly come within the purview of the Royal Commission. But, Sir, I hope the House will not forget that no moderation in language can blink the fact that this indictment is a Motion of censure on the Government on matters on which the Government have never been heard, on the Report of an inquiry which has reflected upon men who were never called to give evidence before the Committee. Sir William Butler's Committee has dealt in very trenchant language with a number of cases of officers. Some of them have been called before the Committee, but I am not sure whether others have; and the Committee have indulged in reflections, which found their way into the speech of the hon. and learned Gentleman this afternoon, on the conduct of the Government. Why have we, who were always available to give evidence, never been allowed to place before Sir William Butler's Committee and the country—[OPPOSITION laughter.] This is not a laughing matter.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): You appointed the Committee. Why do you complain?

*MR. BRODRICK: Does the right hon. Gentleman think that the Secretary of State who appointed Sir William Butler's Committee, could also dictate what evidence was to be called? Is it his view, after such a long experience of administration, that on appointing a Committee you should proceed to tell the Chairman what witnesses he should call? This is a serious indictment, and I am on my defence before the House on the charge of alleged incapacity and want of supervision. [OPPOSITION cheers.] Reserve those cheers till you have heard the facts. I have never been asked to give one single word of evidence in answer to the case, and I have never been allowed a single opportunity of stating my case in this House or elsewhere.

It is not rational that we should be discussing here a portion of the case which should be left to the Royal Commission. I do not believe there is a precedent for such a proceeding in the history of this House. There is no date in these transactions which I welcome so much as I do this afternoon, when I can come forward before the House; and I say that so far, as was suggested by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, from its being our desire to shelter ourselves behind the Commission, our anxiety is that all these questions should be examined, and promptly examined, that the evidence which I shall bring before the House of Commons this afternoon should also go before the Commission, and that every person who can be brought to account should be punished.

I have in the last few days had access to documents, and I can see perfectly clearly why it will be impossible for me to mention names and to bring the action of individuals before the House. It is obviously clear that such a course on my part would be most improper. But, on behalf of the Government, I undertake to make as full a disclosure as it is in my power to make. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that nobody is imputing to us any sympathy with fraud, but indifference to the waste of public money. Who could suppose that any Minister would be indifferent to the waste of public money? Is it to our advantage or to the advantage of anyone that the Estimates should be swelled, that the difficulties of the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be increased? Nobody, not even the bitterest antagonist, can impute to us any indifference as to the waste of public money.

The suggestion now is that we have been slow in following up the irregularities. I will endeavour to show the House what the condition was in South Africa when these arrangements were made, what the extent of the losses might have been, what steps we took to prevent the country being flooded with supplies, what arrangements we made for their disposal, what was the supervision we attempted, and, in such cases as came before us, what were the penalties we inflicted. The hon. and learned Member made a statement as to the number of horses and men in South Africa at the close of the war. He said that there were 327,000 men to be fed, 268,000 horses, and there were 19,000 officers as well. In addition, we had to provide for 116,000 people in concentration camps. For all these people we had been keeping up, according to their numbers, for nearly two years a constant supply and a reserve for four months. In view of the great dispersion of the troops that reserve had got even beyond a four months supply. The war terminated on May 31st, and on July 8th, when the reserve stood at its highest, there were seven months supply of breadstuffs, five months of wheat-stuffs, seven months of preserves, three and-a-half months of hay, and three and-a-half months of grain.

Sir ROBERT REID: For all that number?

*Mr. BRODRICK: Yes. From that date the supply began to decrease. As the hon. and learned Member said, the last supply ship left this country on July 5th. I assert that any commission or committee of business men who went into the attempts made to reduce these contracts and to account for them, would claim that my noble friend acted promptly in this respect and did everything a man could do in order, without loss, to cancel contracts which were running to provide supplies for this vast number of people. We cancelled at some loss very nearly all the contracts in this country, and if we could have cancelled all those that came from abroad we would have done so on similar terms. But we could not. We were subject to foreign law; we were subject to the fact that freights had been taken up already, and we found that in many cases one-half or three-fourths of the sum which we would have to pay would have been lost if we had not allowed the contracts to be carried out. We, therefore, felt that it was better in these cases to allow the contracts to go forward. I am not going to attempt to follow out in detail any of these special contracts to-day. All I say here is that although I declare that there never was brought to my notice that a system of dual purchase, or buying from and selling to the same contractor, was about to be set on foot, and that if I had known that it had been set on foot, the duty of financial criticism would have been placed on some one, and any such contract would have been dealt with personally, and certainly never allowed to pass, it has been as a matter of fact assumed that all these supplies which were in South Africa at the close of the war have been sold. That is not the case.

The hon. and learned Member alluded to the case of oats. There is any amount to be said about the contracts made in reference to oats. As a matter of fact the cost of the oats landed in South Africa from this country after the war was 20s. per quarter, and the oats were sold in South Africa for 35s. per quarter. Although I am well aware, from circumstances recently brought out, that some contractors bought from us at a figure and sold to us at a higher figure, it must be remembered, in all fairness to those who transacted the business, that the amount bought was small compared with the amount sold. In other words, the contractors bought in Pretoria 15,000,000 lb. of oats and they sold back to the Army 3,000,000 lb. of oats, having to dispose of the other 12,000,000 lb. to private buyers. If we had sold £100,000 worth of stuff and bought it again for £150,000 we should have made a very heavy loss, but if we sold £500,000 worth and bought £100,000 worth at an increased price it might still have been a bargain; subject to the fact that these contracts, except with one or two remarkable exceptions, were made from the sale of good and bad alike, I say it might have been a perfectly fair and useful commercial transaction.

I beg the earnest attention of the House to a very grave mistake which figures in the speech of the hon. and learned Member and in the Report of Sir William Butler's Committee which I should like, if I can, to dispel from the minds of hon. Members. And that is an exaggerated idea as to the loss which the country may have sustained from these transactions. Lord Kitchener sent a telegram on June 18th in which he roughly estimated that the money involved in these sales might amount to £6,000,000 or £7,000,000. That was based on a suggestion or a rough estimate made to him by Colonel Morgan which is to be found in Question 5101, in which Colonel Morgan said—

> "Lord Kitchener sent that telegram, and I did not see it until afterwards, but he asked me then to make an estimate of what I thought the surplus things would fetch, and I think I estimated about £8,000,000. He said, 'Do you expect to get that? If you got half I should think you would do very well.'"

I cite that for the purpose of pointing out that this was a rough-and-ready estimate. Now what deduction was it subject to? Lord Kitchener then did not know and could not know the amount of sales to Lord Milner that would be agreed, as they were agreed a month later for £1,400,000. Lord Kitchener on June 18th, when he sent that telegram, was under the impression that local contracts for supplies would very shortly be brought into working. He put forward these contracts on May 25th for approval; he put them forward again on June 3rd, and he pressed us on June 10th, and evidently believed that before long, having sold a good deal of our own surplus stores, which he well knew to be deteriorating in the open—because, save medical comforts and a few others of all this vast amount which had to be landed in South Africa and held in readiness for the troops, there was not a single pound housed under shelter—I say that Lord Kitchener with that knowledge contemplated early sales and local contracts, but those contracts were not begun for seven months, and after those seven months three months more of perishable supplies were received, the whole of which came out of the £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 which Lord Kitchener roughly estimated. Again, Lord Kitchener was under the impression, and well might be, that the concentration camps would be broken up very rapidly. But, as a matter of fact, as the hon. and learned Member stated, those camps were kept on for nearly another six months, and we had to provide all these people in their own homes with food and necessaries, and we had also to supply food and necessaries for the 25,000 Boers who were repatriated during the next eight months. All these came in: 140,000 men to be fed for eight months came in as a deduction from Lord Kitchener's estimate.

Then there was the question of deterioration, which even a man of Lord Kitchener's great knowledge and organising power, sitting at Pretoria, could not possibly estimate in connection with these 150 or 160 supply depôts left out in the open throughout the whole of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies. What are the figures? I give them to the House with every reserve, but if they should have, as I believe they will, the effect of convincing the public that an amount of great public concern as to millions of loss has been altogether unreasonably incurred and that the transactions are on a totally different scale, I think at least the labour bestowed on them will not have been in vain. It is impossible to give absolutely accurate figures. I give the best I can. I give what the War Office has been able to work out on the returns sent them from South Africa. But be it observed no man can say the precise cost of each of these lots of provisions; you cannot tell distinctly when they were landed or to what particular landing they belonged, or where they came from. All I can say is this: the actual sales to the public which are the subject of the inquiry by Sir William Butler's Committee realised in all £718,000. The actual cost of these articles taken at the contract price at which they were being received at Woolwich (I will say a word about freight afterwards) was £1,028,000. The loss on that account was £310,000. What may I add for freight? I have done my best; I have taken authority and I have gone, I believe, to the extreme limit when I add a quarter of the whole value for freight. That would add another £250,000 to the sum. Therefore you arrive at this result. The stores sold cost us something like £1,270,000, the money made by them was £718,000. The loss due to those stores, which had in some cases not only travelled to South Africa, but in most cases had been in the open and carried about to every part of South Africa, was about 40 per cent. of the value. That is the whole extent of the loss which we are discussing so far as I can possibly make it out. Have I not some right, on behalf of the Government, to ask this question, why Sir William Butler's Committee, having the opportunity of calling officials before them, and having access to all the official Papers, did not make some computation of this kind, such as I have made in the few days which have intervened since the Report of the Committee came into my hands? Why, these being the facts, have they led the public of this country to think, by continual iteration, that the loss was due to inefficiency and lack of supervision? Why did they not temper their criticism by allusion to facts to proof of which they had ready access and into which they were appointed to inquire?

Mr. Brodrick

I have endeavoured to give the House the figures as I have received them. Now let me say what steps the War Office took day by day. Do not let it be quoted against me that a loss of £100,000 or £50,000 took place through inefficient supervision. I do not depreciate the amount, and I say it was our duty to exercise supervision, but I shall prove that we have exercised such supervision as had never been exercised over any Army in the field before, either in this or any other country. The war ended on May 31st. On June 2nd I met my right hon. friend the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, and with his concurrence appointed a Committee for the purposes of repatriation and sale of stores to the Colonial Government. That Committee met on June 4th and it included Lord Onslow for the Colonial Office and my noble friend the Postmaster-General for the War Office, with an officer of each Department. Lord Milner was telegraphically approached on June 4th, and the whole question of the distribution and sale of stores to Lord Milner was settled by July 18th by this Committee. We induced Lord Milner to take over all stores he could accept; and yet Sir William Butler's Committee, in paragraph 44 of their Report, say—

> "They cannot refrain from adding that they have never been able to understand why a method of meeting all the civil and military requirements at the end of the war was not adopted, handing over to the Repatriation Department the whole surplus Army stock at a joint valuation. This simple stroke-of-the-pen administrative method between two Departments of the State would, the Committee think, have saved much money and placed an effective barrier against the various activities alluded to in this Report."

They were not able to understand! Very probably they were not. Why? Because they had my noble friend the Postmaster-General, Lord Onslow, the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, and myself within easy reach, but they never asked us a question before they engaged in this damaging crusade, before they made this attack which is not sustainable by any jot or tittle of evidence.

Then we are attacked because local contracts were made. I have told the House already why local contracts were originally proposed by Lord Kitchener. The Committee call attention to the fact that on June 3rd Lord Kitchener recommended a system of local contract, and that—

"The War Office do not appear to have approved these general principles for some days."

This is indeed an indictment. We did take some days to consider when, how, and where local contracts for the supply of an Army of 300,000 should begin. I think we were wise in taking time for consideration; and we sent orders that seven months supply should be kept up of perishable and ten months supply of non-perishable stores, and we arranged that local contracts should not begin until January 1st of the following year, and we hedged round these contracts by every conceivable barrier we could. I hope the House will not mind my reading the actual telegrams. I do not think they have seen the light, and I think they should be known. On July 31st we telegraphed to the General Officer Commanding at Pretoria—

"Send by mail full report of action taken as to disposal of surplus stocks of supply, showing what reserves proposed to retain. Cable brief reply. Render monthly reports by mail of sales and amounts realised."

The General Officer replied—

"Reference to supplies. Sold to general public at actual cost *plus* percentage referred to in paragraph 7 of allowance regulations, *plus* Customs dues, *plus* civil railway rates. Will report fully by post as to sale and results. Reserves are being maintained for all troops to December 31st, and for sixty days additional of unperishable stores."

On August 18th we telegraphed—

"It is thought three months reserve of meat, biscuits, flour, rum, lime juice, groceries, and medical comforts should be maintained in South Africa on account of time required to obtain them from England. Please reconsider the matter. Unless surplus supplies can be sold at prices to prevent any loss whatever, it is thought they should continue to be utilised as far as possible till expended, subject to running no risk of deterioration by keeping."

The General Officer replied on August 27th—

"Three months supply of articles mentioned will be retained. Procedure indicated in last part of your telegram is precisely that which is being followed."

Those were the orders. The situation on July 31st was this. We had sold to Lord Milner all the stores he could take. General Lyttelton had received orders that sales were to proceed at not below fixed prices, and returns were to be rendered monthly. The question is—how were our orders carried out? What supervision did we maintain? It was the misfortune rather than the fault of the hon. and learned Member that he had not seen evidence on this point; he would have seen it if it had been in the Report. He says, "You asked these men to carry out work for which you gave them no additional staff, you threw upon them labour they could not be expected to perform." Something of this kind the hon. and learned Member said, and he is justified by a paragraph in the Report of the Committee, which says—

"It appears to the Committee that a great error was made in not having sent to South Africa at the conclusion of the war a specially-trained selected officer of high rank and a small but very capable staff of civil and military officials, who would have taken in hand the entire business of winding up the war, disposing of surplus stock by sale or by shipment to England, and, generally speaking, replacing the haphazard and always wasteful ways of war by regular methods of peace administration."

Well, I challenge those remarks, which I say were made without calling the Quartermaster-General or any of the officials who might have proved differently. We knew there would be pressure in winding up the war; and the moment that peace negotiations took a favourable turn my noble friend and I engaged, under contract to go out to South Africa to assist in these operations, some 600 additional capable clerks. These, between 500 and 600 in number, left England within a few days of the declaration of peace, and were available for a year's service in winding up affairs and dealing with a vast mass of documents. We are told we ought to have sent out specially-trained officers;

but where were they to come from? The whole Army Service Corps was in South Africa, and of about 350 officers some 250 were on active service. These men were conversant with the work, they knew where the supplies were, they could judge of deterioration, they had the whole work at their finger ends Were we to replace them with men who had not that knowledge and experience, who did not know where the 150 depôts were, who did not know what they contained and what was the effect of the South African climate? Why, if we had done this, if we had supplanted them by civilians accustomed to buy and sell in times of peace, we should have done much to bring about failure and have acted in the face of Lord Kitchener's advice, who on the spot had chosen men to deal with these stores. I venture to say we should have laid ourselves open to the gravest censure for disregarding the advice of the man to whom we were continually urged to give a free hand in that very department of the service in which he was well known to be the greatest master. Did we supervise the operations, or did we leave them to take their chance?

I am sorry to say I shall have to trouble the House for a few moments with another part of the case. The hon. and learned Member says I had warnings during the continuation of the war. I had, and was not likely to forget them. When a man has had to deal, as I had, with case after case of officers who had failed in the field, he will know there is no more ungrateful task; and when he has had to deal with officers who had not necessarily been guilty of corruption, but had failed in judgment, and whose errors had cost the country large sums, he is not likely to forget the lesson. It is easy to talk about these matters here in Parliament, but when you come to penalise an officer who under pressure of work made contracts that involved a loss of many thousands to the country, you have against you all the good-intentioned sympathy of his superiors, and you have to fall back, as I had to fall back on my colleagues and ask whether I should or should not impose the penalty of leaving the service upon officers who had lacked judgment but not honesty. I had a body of auditors in July, 1902, auditing all the ordinary stores accounts, and that was quite enough to put me in touch with the necessity of not allowing those long delays upon which the hon. and learned Gentleman spoke so eloquently and forcibly. The hon. and learned Member pointed out that it would take six months to get an answer from South Africa and that it was impossible to carry on business in that fashion. What did we do? We asked the Treasury in November, 1902, to incur the very large cost of sending out a special audit staff to South Africa in order to audit on the spot the whole of the accounts that were coming in, and in that way to get rid of the difficulty of sending queries to and from England, and so having to wait for months before a decision was come to. We did not stop there. We asked the Treasury to use its influence with the Comptroller and Auditor-General himself, the officer of this House, the man who is there not merely to check irregularities in our accounts, but to check irregularities on the part of the War Office auditors, to send out also a staff of auditors in January, 1903. These two sets of auditors were sitting in the buildings adjoining the buildings in which the whole of these transactions took place, having been sent there for the purpose of keeping a watch over the accounts.

Now I shall anticipate the question —Why did you not get a report from these auditors sooner than September, 1903, the date mentioned by the hon. and learned Gentleman? The fact is that I had brought to my notice in December, 1902, that there was difficulty about the canteen department in South Africa. I mention this transaction for three purposes; firstly, because I want to bring it within the purview of the Royal Commission; secondly, because I want to show the steps that were taken by the Government at home; and thirdly, because I want to do justice to the auditors who went out and who might otherwise be accused of not having looked after the business they were sent specially to do. The canteens are stores which are run for the benefit of the soldiers by the officers. The profits go to the soldiers or the regiment. The canteens have always been run under the control of the General Officer Commanding. Lord Kitchener instituted a system of regimental field force canteens in South Africa. They provided for the soldier during the period of the war a great number of necessaries which he was prepared to purchase, and which were in excess of the official list. The profits shown in December, 1902, were over £700,000. I thought it my duty to call the attention of the Commander-in-Chief to these enormous profits and to ask, although they were not Government funds, whether he was satisfied with the manner in which it was proposed to use these profits. The whole Army was coming back from South Africa and all sorts of questions arose as to whether the regiments should take their share of the profits away with them—whether the money should be used in South Africa or taken for regimental purposes at home. A telegram was sent to General Lyttelton asking him among other particulars what large services were charged to the canteen fund, and what the balance of the fund was at that date. The answer which we received from Pretoria was a very unsatisfactory one. I directed Mr. Flynn, the auditor who went out in December, 1902, to address himself to a review of the canteen funds. I got his report in July, 1903. Mr. Flynn estimated that owing to the enormous purchases made since the conclusion of the war by those responsible, an avoidable loss to the extent of between £250,000 and £300,000 had occurred. He reported that the mistake referred to began when a certain officer took over the charge and ended when that officer left. He pointed out that that officer employed a relation of his own and a relation of another officer who was also in charge. He made reflections on both officers for having employed relations in direct contravention of the regulations for the management of these supplies. Just before I left office I urged that both of these officers should be brought before a Court-martial. Lord Roberts sent the papers to a particular authority, and after both of the officers had been heard it was decided that no Court-martial would be held, though a grave error of judgment had been committed, and we were forced to leave that case with the censure of the officers by the Commander-in-Chief. I think that case ought to come within the purview of the Royal Commission. I mentioned this case also because it may be in some degree a reason why the auditors never came upon the question of dual contract until September, 1903, two or three days before I left the War Office. I have already condemned this system. I have already told the House that I cannot attempt, speaking with a Commission impending, to state who were, in my opinion, responsible for these mistakes, but I am bound to say that this system was known to certain persons in the War Office in September, 1903, and was never made known to my noble friend, or myself, or to my right hon. friend who succeeded me. It is a question for the Commission to settle where the responsibility for that lies.

I will endeavour to make my story as brief as I can with regard to the question of returns. Certain returns were ordered. These returns were not tendered up to September, 1902. I think I have reason to complain that this subject is still in doubt before the House. We appointed Sir William Butler's Committee, and what does it say? It says that these returns were noticed in a Departmental Minute. The fact that they were not rendered was known. Why do we not know to whom they were known? Why was not the responsibility fixed by Sir William Butler's Committee? He had all the facts before him; he had the Papers before him; and he had the names before him. Why was not a full disclosure made on a subject which he knew to be vital, and which he said was vital, for the discovery of the whole of these transactions? Why did not he follow it up when he had got the full facts before him? Why were we never told about this? Why was the hon. and learned Gentleman allowed to get up and state that there was no supervision, in ignorance of the fact that there were audit officers of the War Office and of the Comptroller and Auditor-General? Why were all these facts kept back in this Report? Why were we not told one word of these things?

SIR ROBERT REID: I am most reluctant to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman. I said that the order of July 31st had not been complied with, and I said also that there were evidently other sources of information before the War Office which I conjectured to be the cash account and the supply account.

*MR. BRODRICK: I recognise that, but it does not affect my point. There were returns sent to the Quartermaster-General showing that at one moment there were 200 days supplies, and that at the next moment there were 180 days supplies, but the returns we wanted, and the returns I ordered, were returns showing the persons concerned in the transactions. These were the returns which were not rendered. [AN HON. MEMBER: Why not?] These are the returns which were noticed in the War Office Minute. These are the returns which Sir William Butler says, and I believe rightly says, would have gone to stop a process which we all regret. [AN HON. MEMBER: Did you know they were not rendered?] I only ask for a full disclosure. I have not been heard. I never was allowed to come before the Committee. But why did not Sir William Butler with these facts before him give us what we wanted—a full disclosure on the one hand, and a judicial finding in the measured language of the bench? Why in place of that have we been treated only to vague suspicions secured by methods of melodrama. I have detailed what occurred in this matter up to the very date at which I left the War Office, and I have shown that in spite of the most complete and rigorous precautions no suggestions of any of these facts were brought to our notice so that we could deal with them.

The hon. and learned Member impeaches my right hon. friend for having neglected the business when he became responsible. I think his statement was prejudiced in a manner to create a most unfair impression. What motive does the hon. and learned Gentleman imagine that my right hon. friend could have in a matter in which he is not really responsible for obscuring these issues and pursuing the course he suggests? Was it to his interest to hush up malpractices of this character? It is not the fact that the laxity which the hon. and learned Gentleman speaks of took place. The chief contract on which these questions have arisen is the Meyer contract. That contract was received in the War Office in November, 1903. It was referred to South Africa for examination, and the answer came in April, 1904. It was sent to the Auditor-General in April, 1904, and apparently the Auditor-General accepted the local explanations—erroneously as we think—which were given of the manner in which the contract was entered into. Therefore, in this case this contract, which we all feel to have been undesirable, was cleared by the auditor in the War Office and apparently passed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General. The second case was the Stepney refund, which originally escaped the notice of the auditor in the War Office. On June 2nd, 1904, the Exchequer and Audit Department was aware of it. The South African authorities were consulted. They corresponded with those responsible who had come back to this country. My right hon. friend got the facts in full for the first time in his possession on December 17th last year. Sir William Butler's Committee was appointed on January 17th this year.

I do not think that, in appointing Sir William Butler, my right hon. friend showed any desire to appoint a passionate partisan. If there is anyone who has to complain that Sir William Butler's Report has been placed before this House in an incomplete state, and in a hurry, and without all the evidence having been taken, surely it is those of us who have been reflected upon by that Report; the officers whose characters have suffered in every newspaper in the Kingdom, and who may yet be able in many instances to right themselves before a real judicial inquiry. I think it is quite possible that Sir William Butler, in making that Report in the language he did, thought he was only dwelling on the malpractices of certain contractors. I think it is quite possible that it never occurred to him that such a Report, so obviously lacking in all that goes to make a fair starting point for

Parliamentary discussion, would have been seized upon by the Opposition, and that it would have been used for the purpose of prejudicing a judicial decision—[OPPOSITION cries of "Oh"]—by a Party attack in which the hon. and learned Member has not been able entirely to keep himself free, as he tried to do, from attacks on the officers in question. What is the use of telling the House that Mr. McGee was a drunkard, or some other person was a man of low character who formed a company to whom the contract was given in South Africa by officers whose conduct would not come under the review of His Majesty's Government for many months afterwards. What is the use of doing that and then saying, "I am making no accusations against these officers; I confine myself entirely to the responsibility of Ministers." But that is what the hon. and learned Gentleman has been forced into by the unfortunate and anomalous position in which he finds himself this afternoon. I say if that part of the argument is good; if we are to blame, we are to blame only on this ground that in every department of life we must trust somebody. If we take the best advice we can; if we take Lord Kitchener's advice; if we surround officers with a competent staff and a large body of auditors, and have auditors to audit these auditors, and if all we have done is to commit our fortunes to men who for two and a-half years had proved themselves efficient in dealing with supplies for an Army of 250,000 men—I put it to this House that we have exercised due supervision and due vigilance. I know it may be said that the Secretary of State is responsible for the action or inaction of all, even the least of those employed in his Department. I do not want to put off from myself one atom of responsibility; but any man who controls an office which is in receipt of 4,000 letters a day, who has hundreds of clerks for auditing millions and tens of millions of pounds in two and a-half years, is bound to have confidence in those who had served him well before under stringent regulations and had proper authority to represent him. Who will stand up in this House and say that you can pin the individual responsibility of the Secretary of State for any two or three failures of judgment, or even in duty, amongst those subordinates who had been supporting him for two or three years, and had been representing him in all these capacities.

Now, I cannot help feeling some degree of indignation that we have not been allowed a better opportunity than we have had of meeting these accusations before the public had formed, as I think, an entirely false impression of them. I have a special feeling myself on this matter on these grounds. I ventured just now to say that the operations which the Minister for War has to carry out during the progress of a campaign are probably the most ungrateful that can fall to the lot of any man. I came to the War Office in the middle of great trouble, when the war had been going on for more than a year, and when everybody believed that it was coming to an end. The best proof of that was that the whole machinery of war was being checked; and I had to set it going again; and keep it going for another year and a half. I think that we may boast at least that during all that time Lord Kitchener did not complain of our efforts to keep him supplied. But during that time we had endless troubles of this kind to meet. As stated just now, there were auditors for the stores in the Ordnance Department. I found that the demands from Cape Town for ordnance equipment were on an unprecedented scale. I called Lord Kitchener's attention to these demands and sent out Sir Fleetwood Wilson as his financial adviser. Lord Kitchener eventually reduced these demands very largely and instituted an inquiry through Sir Fleetwood Wilson which showed that the buying and selling of these officers had been unwise, and that the loss to the public had amounted to many thousands of pounds. His Majesty's Government were accused of laxity in these matters. That telegram first stopped that sort of thing all over South Africa. These officers were sent home, and the usual course was pursued in regard to them. The good nature of every man who could be brought to bear was brought to bear on me to say after the inquiry that these officers had been proved to be incompetent, no doubt—I could read Lord Roberts' own Minute on the subject—but that they had not been proved to be dishonest, and that they should not be debarred from being employed. The view I took, after consulting my colleagues and adequate legal authority, was that in high positions connected with the Ordnance Department, the country had a right to expect something beyond honesty; that they had a right to expect capacity; and that men should not place themselves in such a position as to bring well-merited criticism and discredit upon the department to which they belong. I believe that is the only single occasion on which on a military question I over-ruled the whole of my military advisers at the War Office. I had behind me the pressure of men of the highest character who urged that these officers should be re-employed in various commands at home; but I insisted that the senior officer should be put on retired pay, and that the second officer should be told that he would never be promoted in any capacity. I mention these facts because I am indignant that, in every single point of this character that has been brought forward, having taken the unpopular line—you may say the severe line, but which I believe was the just and necessary line—it is assumed, forsooth, when I never had an opportunity of saying a word in my own defence—that I should have carried out the course which the the hon. and learned Gentleman suggests, for laxity and neglect, and want—I think he said—of due regard to the important interests that were committed to me.

What were the circumstances not only of myself, but of my right hon. friend, and of nearly every man in the War Office at that time? I went there in November, 1900, and left in October, 1903. I can honestly say that for the first two years I was at the War Office, when the war was going on, and when we were winding up the war, I never had one day's holiday. I rarely left London more than a few hours at a time. I was constantly on these benches in this House answering questions or defending my Department from two o'clock p.m. until midnight; after having been engaged the whole morning either in Cabinet Council or in Committees. And on more than two or three days of the week I returned to the War Office after midnight and remained there till the early hours of the morning. I am sure the hon. and learned Gentleman will understand the feeling of a man who has spent every ounce of his power in the service of the office to which he was proud to belong, when he is accused of want of supervision and want of due regard to the interests committed to him. I remember on these very subjects Lord Kitchener, when he came home, desired to have conferences with me on all the events that had been going on during all the eighteen months in which we had been corresponding before he came home. I devoted every hour I could to him before he left England, but he found it so impossible to get uninterrupted conversation with me that on many occasions he asked me to meet him before nine o'clock in the morning, and I did so. I can only say this—that so far from I, or any one of my colleagues, having anything to conceal in regard to these matters, I have made a clean breast of all that had taken place during my time at the War Office to the House this afternoon. I invite inquiry into every single transaction; and I wish for nothing better than that every Minute I ever wrote should be placed before Parliament. I say that without doubt or hesitation, but with absolute conviction that the inquiry - and the more extended its purview the better—will be a vindication not only of the honour, but of the capacity of those who administered this service and of those who served with them; and when the result is known the greater will be the regret of the Party opposite for having embarked on this Party attack. It can only tend, whatever pain it may give to the people affected, to a revulsion of feeling in favour of the Party who are doing all they can to submit their entire action, not only to the judgment of the House, but of the country.

*Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid): No hon. Member will deny that the right hon. Gentleman has exhibited in every office he has held a versatile industry which ought to be expected from every public servant. It is, however, not merely industry that is required, but also capacity not only as far as individual Ministers are concerned, but also from the Government of the country. The right hon. Gentleman reduced the whole matter to an *ad hominem* argument which was entirely unworthy of the spirit in which my hon. and learned friend introduced the Motion. To employ a legal phrase, the right hon. Gentleman's speech was one of "confession and avoidance." Why did the right hon. Gentleman for a whole year not obtain the returns he ordered.

*Mr. BRODRICK: Have I not replied to that? How can I fix responsibility on others?

*Mr. SAMUEL EVANS: I should be the last to ask the right hon. Gentleman to make any further attack on his subordinates than he has already made; but who was responsible for neglecting to supply the returns? If the right hon. Gentleman were as vigilant as he is industrious, and as capable as he is honest, he would have elicited the information. What is the use of asking for returns if they are not supplied. The right hon. Gentleman, and the Government of which he is a member, have no excuse whatever for their laxity and want of vigilance. In the extraordinary debate on March 17th and 18th, 1902, the Government and the right hon. Gentleman particularly were warned—the t's were crossed, and the i's were dotted—that what did subsequently happen in South Africa would happen. The right hon. Gentleman has made a most extraordinary attack on Sir William Butler. Sir William Butler was appointed by the Government of which the right hon. Gentleman is a member; and, forsooth, the right hon. Gentleman is the Gentleman who complains of men being attacked behind their backs without any opportunity of replying. What is the complaint against Sir William Butler? First of all, that he did not demand the attendance of the right hon. Gentleman. Why did not the right hon. Gentleman offer his evidence?

*Mr. BRODRICK: I never heard in my life of a Committee being dictated to. My evidence was at the disposal of the Committee.

*Mr. SAMUEL EVANS: I did not suggest that the right hon. Gentleman should dictate to the Committee; although the result of his conduct and his action towards Sir William Butler on this occasion is something like dictating to every member of any future Committee that might be appointed. But did the right hon. Gentleman proffer his evidence? Did he know the Government of which he was a member was being attacked; and was he told by Colonel Morgan and other witnesses that observations were being made as to the conduct of the War Office?

*Mr. BRODRICK: I never had any conversation with any witness or with any member of the Committee while it was sitting. I had not the slightest idea that any subject which concerned my administration was under review.

*Mr. SAMUEL EVANS: That last statement is astounding. I assume the terms of reference to the Committee were settled by the Cabinet; the general reference was to investigate and report on the terms of contracts and sales and refunds to contractors after the end of the war. The right hon. Gentleman was then at the War Office. Moreover, the Butler Committee were expressly instructed to deal with six specific cases; and we now have the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that there were other cases quite as bad, if not worse. Is it not extraordinary that the right hon. Gentleman should now complain that he was not summoned by his subordinates to attend the Committee, when he must have known they were investigating certain matters at the end of the war for which he himself was responsible? Did not the right hon. Gentleman in the debate on March 17th and 18th, 1902, demand an inquiry as a matter of right. On March 17th the Leader of the Opposition said—

> "Whoever may have suffered it is clear that the contractor has done well out of the war. He has not only done well out of the war, but he is doing

well out of the war; and judging by the syndicates and combinations which reach from the River Plate to the meat factories of Queensland, embracing the mining corporation of De Beers, great firms of shipowners who also turn out to be horse-dealers and meat producers, embracing also English—for the most part naturalised English—meat contractors and Johannesburg financiers whose names for good or for evil ring throughout the world—judging by these indications the contractor means to go on making a good thing out of the war."

Then the right hon. Gentleman pointed out with foresight and in wise and statesmanlike language that the object of the Opposition was to protect the interests of the taxpayers, and that that could only be done by an inquiry to take place immediately and that delay would be most mischievous. These were some of his words—

> "What we want to do is to protect the taxpayer's interest, which is our prime duty; and that protection can only be given by inquiring now while the matter is red-hot—now, before those who have acted as agents either for the Government who use or the contractor who supplies, have dispersed and passed out of sight. We want to know how the taxpayer has been treated, and how he is going to be treated in the future. . . . These are cases that if not inquired into now will pass into obscurity, and information will not be reached."

The hon. and learned Member for Dumfries in the same debate pointed out exactly the difficulties of the Government if the advice of the Opposition were not accepted. On that occasion the right hon. Gentleman demanded and the First Lord of the Treasury promised definitely that at the end of the war there should be an inquiry. What, then, was the meaning of the delay which occurred during the latter part of 1902, and the whole of 1903 and 1904? And the results which were foretold have taken place. To show that, I will read to the right hon. Gentleman what General Lyttelton said in a note after the evidence was read over to him. It is on page 429 of this Blue-book. It is not put as a question, but he explained in a note, as I have said, his own position. This is what he writes—

> "It was very unfortunate Colonel Morgan going away, as he had all the strings in his hands. As long as he was with us everything went splendidly."

This adverb he alters thus—

> "Well so far as I could see, but he did not stay long."

Mr. Samuel Evans.

Then this is the note by witness—

> "I should like to say I have no wish to shirk responsibility or to shelter myself behind my subordinates."

—a sentiment which I would commend to the right hon. Gentleman.

> "But I do not wish to answer for transactions which were not referred to me. I am sorry my recollection is so vague, but the fact is there was an enormous mass of business connected with sales of stores, Army Service Corps force canteen, and ordnance, involving large sums, and it is difficult to avoid mixing things up. The sales were taking place as far back as 1902, and I had to do business between four different Directors of Supplies. It is unfortunate that I was not examined before when South African affairs were fresh in my memory. I have been engaged in very different work since, and my recollection as to these matters is now not at all clear."

Could there be anything which would be a stronger justification for the action which we on this side take, than that note by General Lyttelton, and can we be surprised that in the Committee's Report, as we see it at the bottom of page 20 we read—

> "There can be little doubt that an extensive loss or destruction of documents has occurred, and it is to be noted in the evidence given by the officers and non-commissioned officers who were connected with the Director of Supplies Office in Pretoria, that defective memories are more the rule than the exception whenever the salient or critical points of any questions are reached."

What is the right hon. Gentleman's excuse and the excuse of the Government? He has drawn, as he often does, very skilfully, a red herring across the path. We are not discussing whether sufficient supplies were sent out to Lord Kitchener during the war. The Government have waved that flag long enough, and the right hon. Gentleman has given himself quite often enough a certificate of good character. What we are asking the House to condemn is the conduct of the authorities at the end of the war in regard to sales, contracts, and refunds. The right hon. Gentleman called for monthly Returns; so far he himself was vigilant, and if it be the fact that he, though vigilant, was not able to obtain this information in regard to the fraud or the capacity of his subordinates, we cannot go further. But what can be the explanation of his not insisting on seeing and examining the Returns which he deemed it necessary to order? Does he say now that he did not know of the system of dual contracts, as he calls it? Does he mean that he and his colleagues in the Cabinet did not have their attention drawn to the fact, until 1904, that this system prevailed. I could show, by going through the evidence, that it was asserted over and over again that the War Office were being made aware of the things now complained of. I think it was in November, 1902, that Colonel Morgan came to this country. He then went to the War Office—he had been there before with regard to the Bergl contract, but he came over a second time in November, 1902, and told the War Office what was going on. He arranged for percentages. I do not know if he said what percentage he had arranged but he unquestionably said that he told the War Office that the system of dual contracts was going on in South Africa. Did the right hon. Gentleman see Colonel Morgan when he attended at the War Office?

*MR. BRODRICK: No, I did not; as a matter of fact, at the time Colonel Morgan came back I did not see him, although I was at the War Office. The hon. Member is aware that when an officer has come back from active service, he does not come necessarily to the Secretary of State for War.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I should have thought the right hon. Gentleman, knowing what was going on in South Africa, and especially if he had not seen the overdue returns, would have made a point of seeing Colonel Morgan and knowing more of these operations to which Colonel Morgan was a party. The right hon. Gentleman gives various figures, showing what the valuation was with regard to Lord Kitchener, and he gives certain figures as to the actual result. But, again, he goes back from the point to which we are holding the Government. The point to which we are holding the Government is selling those things which they required and buying them back at 60 or 70 per cent. more than the price at which they sold them. The particular case I have in mind is a perfectly simple one. The right hon. Gentleman gave us the figures and said, dealing with the oats contract—

> "After all, you must remember we sold 15,000,000 lbs. of oats and we bought back only 3,000,000 lbs."

What does this single transaction represent? It means that the Government sell oats, knowing they require them, at 11s. and they then buy them back at 17s. 11d., or, in other words, that on the 3,000,000 lbs. of oats that they had to buy back, the Government lost £10,500 in one transaction. The right hon. Gentleman could not justify a thing of that kind and did not attempt to. Of course we cannot go into all these details, but it is quite clear from the Blue-book that with regard to the biscuit transaction, on which a refund of £1,761 was made, it was such a large quantity of biscuits that references home were constantly being made. It is in these respects, on these matters, illustrative of War Office confusion and incapacity, that we say that His Majesty's Government has proved so lax that they deserve the censure of this House. These cases disclosed in the Blue-book by reason of the efforts of Sir William Butler and his Committee are only a few in number, and we know now from the Government that there are others quite as bad if not worse. Nobody knows what the country has lost by these transactions.

But the right hon. Gentleman said he demanded an inquiry and would emerge from it scathless. Who has got the inquiry? Have we got it for Party purposes? We are fully justified in what we have done. But the Government have done their best to frustrate proper inquiry, until they were forced by us and the public opinion. In the first place, the Report of Sir William Butler's Committee is dated May 22nd. We hear nothing about it until the House meets, when, as a result of the interrogations that take place across the floor—it might be called a cross-examination—we were offered a Select Committee. But a Select Committee could not properly investigate such cases. It could not command the attendance before the Committee of any witness, and no witness could be prosecuted for perjury if he made any misstatements. So the Prime Minister then said, "I will give you a Royal Commission," which would have the like disqualifications. That was on Wednesday. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition asked whether it was to be a Statutory Commission, and the Prime Minister in answer gave a laconic "No." On Thursday he promised a Royal Statutory Commission, and finally, before this debate takes place, at the eleventh hour, he appoints the Commission, in order to strengthen some of his weak-kneed supporters, and says, "I have done this and nobody could ask me to do more. I have given a Commission of the widest kind." But that is our justification. If the Commission is necessary now it was necessary at the end of the war, and we demanded some such inquiry in the year 1902. We demanded it in 1903, and you ascertained in 1903–4 facts whereby alone, if you were doing your duty, you ought to have offered to the country the Commission which now has been wrested from you. The very fact that a Statutory Commission has been granted is the most solid argument in favour of the indictment against the Government, and if the House were left to vote according to its convictions I feel sure that a large majority would say that you have now done what you ought to have done long ago, and that therefore a vote of censure for want of vigilance and for want of attention to duty in the past is fully merited.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I do not think this is a debate into which acrimony or personal considerations should be largely introduced, as we are in the preliminary stage of an inquiry which the Government has not only accepted but invited, and which the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India shows to be of vastly greater extent and of more importance than anybody has yet supposed. I have some sympathy with the right hon. Gentleman's remarks condemnatory of the Butler Report. The literary style of that Report does not commend itself to me, and some of its statements are such as I do not think are entirely warranted by the evidence. But there is a great residuum to warrant inquiry in South Africa, and to that residuum the right hon. Gentleman has added in a most remarkable way.

First of all, let me say that this House, the Butler Committee, and the Public Accounts Committee, have been at a great disadvantage in consequence not only of the disappearance and destruction of documents alleged to have taken place in South Africa, but also of the non-production of documents which certainly do exist. There is, for instance, that most important document, namely, General Lyttelton's report on these very sales from October, 1902, to December, 1903, which has never been presented, as far as I know, either to the Butler Committee or to any other body. I intend to quote from that document, and I am able to do so for the reason that I am not subject to the rule by which a Minister, if he quotes from a document, is compelled to lay it on the Table. There are other documents also to which the right hon. Gentleman has referred, and which in consequence he will have to lay on the Table. Those telegrams are of the utmost consequence, and I venture to say that they will be a revelation both to those who believe there is foundation for everything in the Butler Report and to those who strongly believe the contrary. Those telegrams show us that in August, 1902, the very question of what was to be done with the surplus stores was raised here, and the right hon. Gentleman obtained from General Lyttelton a promise that the surplus stores would continue to be utilised for the troops. That is a most remarkable thing. We know that that promise was not carried out. We know that instead of being utilised for the troops they were sold and rebought to a very considerable extent. I hope the first thing the right hon. Gentleman does will be to lay upon the Table of the House his own telegrams and all other documents cognate to this matter. I think the House will see that they very much enlarge the importance of the investigation.

Then the right hon. Gentleman has introduced entirely new matter—not, indeed, new to me, but new to the House—the matter of the canteen. He has told the House that there were avoidable losses of between £250,000 and £300,000, that he, with the single-mindedness which we recognise as always belonging to him, wished to bring the officers to account, but that he was overruled by Lord Roberts. So I understood him.

*Mr. BRODRICK: Lord Roberts put the matter to the Judge-Advocate-General for legal advice, and he said that the position was not one in which it would be feasible to bring the officers to Court-martial. Lord Roberts did everything he could.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: Whether it was the Judge-Advocate-General or the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts or anybody else, whoever was responsible, such is the feeling of the right hon. Gentleman himself with regard to this transaction that he has thought it necessary—rightly as I think—to detail the matter to the House for the avowed purpose of bringing it within the purview of the inquiry. I say that that also very much enlarges the field of operations. He has not told us the names of the persons concerned, and I shall not make any guesses at them, though I think I could make a very good one. But the most serious imputation that I have yet heard is that made by the right hon. Gentleman himself in connection with the canteen system. He suggests that those who were responsible for the canteen system and the losses thereon had such authority and power in South Africa that they were positively able to interfere with the work of the auditors whom he himself had sent out.

*Mr. BRODRICK dissented.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: The right hon. Gentleman is in the recollection of the House. I certainly understood him to suggest that that was one of the reasons why the auditors failed in their task.

*Mr. BRODRICK: I was merely attempting to answer a Question which might be asked, namely, why did not the auditors make a report earlier than they did on certain points, and I said that it must be remembered that they were dealing with this heavy mass of figures and could not report to us earlier.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: I am glad to have elicited that explanation, because I had entirely misunderstood my right hon. friend. Then the right hon. Gentleman was most eloquent and indignant on the subject of the returns. "Why," he said, "did not the Butler Committee tell us the reason the returns of these stores were not obtained?" I do not know, and my right hon. friend did not give any hint on the point. I am sorry he did not; this, again, enlarges the scope of the enquiry. Finally, he seemed to complain most unreasonably of the premature publication of the Butler Report, and if I did not misunderstand him he rather attributed that premature publication to the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee had nothing whatever to do with the publication of the Report. By virtue of the authority given to them by this House to send for persons, papers, and records, the Public Accounts Committee called for the Report for their own purposes, and obtained it on May 26th. For their own purposes they used it, and no hint of that Report reached the Press from any member of the Public Accounts Committee until the Report itself was published. As I have said, the area of the inquiry has been greatly enlarged by the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, and that the investigation will be final and complete no Member of this House can doubt. I need not tell the story again; one has only to recall the essential features. Oats were bought at 11s. by Meyer, and here is a point which requires comment. By telegram on December 26th, 1902, an order was sent to every station in South Africa to sell to Mr. Meyer every oat in the country at 11s. But the right hon. Gentleman says he sold his oats at 25s.

Several HON. MEMBERS: 35s.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: Thirty-five shillings a quarter; I am talking of the 100 lbs. On December 27th the fiat went forth that all the oats in South Africa were to be sold to Meyer at 11s. The oats were not moved; they were bought back by us at 18s. When one remembers that this was accepted by the general, if we are to believe the evidence of the witnesses; that this same Meyer got a refund of £21,232 on the mere authority of a subaltern officer; that chaff costing £3,215 was sold for £481, and that although it was at Durban, where it could easily have been thrown into the sea, an extra charge per 100 lbs. was imposed upon it to get it to Pretoria for Meyer, I wonder where negligence merges into incapacity, and where incapacity reaches a point at which the country may refuse to pay for it. This system of selling your own oats at 11s. and buying them back at 18s. is called the "dual system." It was not invented by Lord Kitchener. It is too great an invention to be allowed to be credited to any other than its rightful author. Colonel Morgan was the inventor; he claims it and resents the suggestion that it was Lord Kitchener's invention. It was adopted by Lord Kitchener, and the remarkable thing is that in recommending it to the War Office Lord Kitchener said—

> "This system will be worked by Colonel Morgan and others, and I recommend that they should have largely increased salaries because of the sales they are going to make and the large sums involved."

So that the original inventor of the "dual system" in recommending it was really recommending himself for an increase of salary. I do not know how Lord Kitchener came so readily to accept this scheme. He is considered to have developed the commercial side of war to its highest point, but certainly his venture here makes me ask whether, although no doubt he is a great captain, he is quite so great a commercial man as has been supposed. This proposal, made by Lord Kitchener on June 18th, 1902, was within a few days accepted by the War Office. All they said was, "How do you propose to act as to preference for home and colonial produce?" The right hon. Gentleman cheers that, but I should not have thought it was the most important question. I rather suspected that it was put with some touch of humour. But the right hon. Gentleman got no answer, and the system went on. It is very simple. You want to get rid of your stores; sell them on the spot. You want to buy other stores: buy them on the spot. The idea seemed to be that you would somehow manage when you sold your stores to get a higher price for the British and colonial than for the foreign. But how you would induce Meyer to pay a higher price is one of the mysteries which can be solved only in Birmingham.

When did the War Office first become aware of the abuses which arose and were certain to arise from the dual system? If we are to believe Colonel Morgan, they knew it in December, 1902. I think there is evidence to show that they knew enough to cause them to make inquiries in April, 1903; and certainly in December, 1903, there began that series of queries by that troublesome person, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, which has continued to this day. Query after query has been put and not really answered. There are at this moment seventeen queries of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, all touching matters of the highest importance, which remain really unanswered. Then what has been the total loss to the country in respect of the mismanagement of these stores? The right hon. Gentleman began a demonstration of what the total loss was, but he did not proceed to the end. As far as I followed his arguments, he is of opinion that on oats there would be a gain, because he bought at 20s. and sold at 35s. Evidently that was not to Meyer. Let me try to ascertain what the total loss was. First of all, there is the testimony of Colonel Morgan in which he says—

> "Lord Kitchener asked me to make an estimate of what I thought the surplus things would fetch."

These "surplus things" are the only things with which we have to deal. The present Secretary of State for War has referred to many other "surplus things" and makes them come to £8,000,000, but we have nothing to do with those. Colonel Morgan continued—

> "Lord Kitchener says in his telegram 'As the money involved will reach £6,000,000 or £7,000,000'"

That is a smaller sum, and Colonel Morgan explains it by saying that a great deal was sold by him before he left the country — the transports, the blockhouses, and the barbed wire were all sold to Lord Milner before Lord Kitchener left the country. It is clear, therefore, that the £1,500,000 realised by the sales to Lord Milner must be deducted from the original £8,000,000 and this would leave the £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 mentioned by Lord Kitchener. On Thursday last, I think, the present Secretary of State for War said that from April, 1902, to September, 1904, the sales amounted to £8,000,000. But those sales are not of the "surplus things" about which we are talking; they include the sales of captured stock which began months before the dual system was instituted. The right hon. Gentleman says that he cannot separate these things; I think I can assist him. The Comptroller and Auditor-General, quoting from a report of the General Officer Commanding, says that the sales were conducted mainly by private treaty, as there was practically no response by merchants to the advertisement, and he further states-

> "It will be found from this statement that the gross amount realised by the sale of surplus supplies from October, 1902 to December, 1903—"

those are the critical fourteen months in which these things occurred—

> "was £560,898."

That would really lead to the inference, which I do not say I adopt—that the loss to the country is about £6,000,000. I do not put that forward as absolutely correct, but there is some corroboration of it. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean said the other day that he had understood the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon, when Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1902–03, to say—as I also understood—that he expected to get from these stores £6,000,000 in relief of his forthcoming Budget. One of the special documents that ought to be produced before this Commission is any correspondence that took place between the War Office and the Treasury on that subject. I ask, did the War Office in any way lead the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the autumn of 1903 to believe that he would get £6,000,000 out of these stores in alleviation of the charges he would have to put upon the country in his next Budget; and did he find at last that, instead of £6,000,000, he got nothing at all? If the right hon. Gentleman answers that Question it will give us some notion as to how far I am correct in my inference that the loss by the ill financial arrangements connected with these stores—to put it no more strongly than that—was something approaching £6,000,000. I admit that there has also to be deducted the value of the stores used.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): And the £1,500,000.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I have already deducted that. But, after all, the amount is interesting only to those who are interested merely by the magnitude of the business. I should take the same interest in it if the amount were only £5 instead of £5,000,000. It is the honour of the officers and the credit of the Ministry that is involved, and therefore the amount is of relatively small importance. I regretted from the first that the Butler Committee was limited to these six cases and to South Africa. In my opinion there are far worse cases than these six; I am inclined to think there are nearer sixty than six, and I am not at all sure that the worst cases took place in South Africa. However, there was that limitation. But the Butler Committee discovered neither the dual system, nor the six cases, nor the rest of the abuses. They were discovered by an officer of this House, the Comptroller and Auditor-General. For the last three years the Comptroller and Auditor-General has been reporting, and the Public Accounts Committee, which without him could not do its work, has been investigating case after case, and sending to the War Office query after query. It is unnecessary to go through them. There was the question of the meat contract, when unvouched purchases were made by officers in the field to so enormous an extent that when, in April, 1902, I asked the witness what the amount of unvouched purchases was, he said he could not say exactly, and when I asked whether he could say within a million or two he said, "No, I cannot." There are matters of that sort that require inquiry into.

I should like to put before the House the functions of the Comptroller and Auditor-General and their bearing on the Commission just appointed, upon the Butler Committee, and every other method that may be suggested for inquiring into these abuses. The Comptroller and Auditor-General is not an officer of His Majesty the King, or of His Majesty's Government, or of any Department of State. He is an officer of this House, and his salary is charged on the Consolidated Fund in order to make him independent of Monarch and Minister alike. By the Exchequer and Audit Act of 1866, there is placed upon him the statutory duty of doing these four things. The first is to see that the expenditure is supported by the vouchers; second, to see that it is applied to the purposes intended by Parliament; third, to see whether the money received by the Departments other than from Parliamentary grants has been applied as directed by Parliament; and fourth, to see whether any sum charged is for any reason not properly charged against the grant. These are the statutory functions of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. In the exercise of his functions the public officials come before him and the Committee, and are cross-examined. They do, no doubt, readily give information to the Committee which this House cannot get without them. The Comptroller and Auditor-General has to decide in the final result whether he will report that such and such an item will be allowed or disallowed. He reported this year for the disallowance of some relatively small items, and I have no doubt they will be disallowed. He may equally report to disallow £6,000,000 or any smaller sum as is involved in these matters if we come to find it out. From that point of view it seems to me that the Butler Committee has been doing over again the work that has been done by the Comptroller and Auditor-General and the Public Accounts Committee. The duty is put on the Comptroller and Auditor-General by statute, and our duty is committed to us by the House of Commons itself. Therefore, that has always been, in my mind, one objection to the Butler Committee. The same objection applies to the appointment of the Royal Commission, though I recognise its propriety.

A remark has been made on the delays of the War Office. It knew of these things in April, 1903, or, as some may think, in November, 1902. Certainly it knew by September, 1903. There has undoubtedly been great delay in the examination of the charges. It was only in January this year that the War Office finally made up its mind to take definite and effectual action. It made up its mind at a most unfortunate moment, I think at the very moment when the Comptroller and Auditor-General was making his Report, which, by the way, contains almost all the facts of the Butler Committee Report. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is dated January 31st, and at the moment when the Public Accounts Committee was about to enter on its duties in the ordinary course the Butler Committee was appointed. What is the result? That the Public Accounts Committee instead of being assisted, is stopped in its work. The Butler Committee interposed between it and all those questions, and the result is that we have been obliged to postpone all the paragraphs in the Comptroller's Report referring to these matters, to go on to other matters, and to await the Report of the Butler Committee. I think that is very unfortunate.

Who is to blame? There is one person who has been animadverted upon strongly, and that is the contractor. The contractor exists for the purpose of making good bargains. The officials of the War Office, if they know their duty, exist for the purpose of preventing him making too good bargains. The contractors who have been named in the Report are not all who have been concerned. There are many other contractors who have done right good work for the War Office. It is said that soldiers are incapable of business. That is not true. I refer you to Khartoum, where you can see how soldiers run a province, conduct schemes of irrigation, manage the navigation of rivers, and run a railway in a way that might give lessons to the London and North-Western Railway. I think that no man can say that soldiers, as soldiers, are incapable of conducting business. What has been baneful to soldiers and contractors alike is the influence of the War Office, that ancient monument of red tape which is building a new palace so near us. It has exercised its nefarious influence upon the greatest of men, and on no less a man than Lord Lansdowne, who has been censured for his conduct in reference to the War Office. My right hon. friend the Secretary of State for India, whose tenacity of purpose and ability for work we all know, even when he does not state it himself—even he has come under criticism. And as to the present Secretary of State for War, he has not escaped. Perhaps now he would not escape a final whipping. It is that malign upas-tree influence that has spoiled the soldier. A soldier is good, a statesman is good, and a contractor is good, but whenever anyone comes under the influence of the War Office he seems to lose his nature and become perverted and demoralised, and that is why the soldier, that is why the Army Service Corps, that is why the contractor, and the whole of the staff in South Africa, seem to me to know a great deal more than the Butler Committee has told you.

My desire is to show the House that it is not the Butler Committee that has brought these things to light and made it necessary for them to be examined. It is the system established by the House, it is the officer appointed by the House, that has ferreted out things and taken the initiative. My opinion is that the steps taken by the Government have not facilitated inquiry so far. I find myself surprised to learn that the area of inquiry will be so much extended as has been suggested by the Secretary of State for India. With regard to the appointment of the Commission, I think it is a matter that must give satisfaction to both sides of the House. There are some who say "Do not wash your dirty linen in public." Those are people who want the dirty linen to remain unwashed. Our system is, when we find the linen is dirty, to give it a good wash. I think it will be found increasingly certain that the financial securities set up by the House have not been insufficient, and that those to whom financial duties have been committed by the House have done their duty as they will in the future do their duty.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): I am relieved of much of my task by the speech of my right hon. friend, who has stated his case with such admirable clearness and lucidity; but it is natural that I should desire to supplement what he has said. The House also will desire that I should do so and give an account of my part in these transactions. I may repeat one thing my right hon. friend said on which I share his view. Nothing could be more congenial to me than to have an opportunity of saying what I have to say on this matter. I readily admit that during the course of the afternoon practically nothing has been said about any special responsibility of my own; but something has been said, and an answer is due from myself. I have been told in this House and outside it that I have concealed, or have had a desire to conceal, the transactions which are now the subject of consideration. I am astonished that any such suggestion should be made. I have no reason and I have no motive whatever for desiring to conceal from the House any facts within my knowledge. I am not primarily responsible for these transactions. They took place at a time when I was not cognisant of what was going on in the War Office; and it is a matter of fact that, whether right or wrong, for good or for evil, I have been the person responsible for the discoveries, or the alleged discoveries, which the House is now discussing and to which hon. Members attach so much importance.

I was first informed by the Financial Department of the War Office that there was ground for investigation of special cases on January 7th of this year. On the same day I decided that a Committee should be appointed. On January 14th I approved the names of the Committee. On May 22nd I received the Report of the Committee. On the same date, at the request of the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, I forwarded that Report to him, and as soon as the evidence was received it was also forwarded to the Public Accounts Committee and the Members of this House. I came to these questions as matter of past history. In October, 1903, these contracts were things of the past and were only represented by the paper records of what had taken place. The two cases I had practically to deal with are the cases known as the Meyer case and the Stepney case. I am not for a moment going into the details of either of these cases. I am not competent to do so; and if I were I should not attempt to do so, because there is a tribunal appointed for the special purposes of investigating the details and putting the blame on those on whom blame should rest. I take these two cases because they are the key to the situation as far as I am concerned. The House will want to know, in the first place, whether reasonable intelligence had been exercised in ascertaining what had taken place, for that that which had taken place did require investigation nobody will deny. They will further require to be satisfied that equal diligence was shown in examining what had taken place, and that reasonable promptitude had been shown in following it up. I can show, from the history of these two cases, that I can reply to all these Questions in the affirmative.

In the first case—the Meyer refund—I will not dwell on details which are probably fresh in the minds of most hon. Members—but I will give the main outline of the case. The contracts were made in November, 1902, for the supply of forage to begin on 1st January, 1903. The prices were to be 17s. 11½d. per 100 lbs. of oats and 17s. 8½d. per 100 lbs. of hay and oat-hay. I mention these figures because these are the figures which ultimately caused inquiry to be made. Subsequently tenders of purchase for the supply of forage were invited on 4th December, and Meyer made a tender for the purchase of certain supplies, and the prices that he offered were said to be the highest, viz., 11s. per 100 lbs. for oats, and 10s. per 100 lbs. for hay and oat-hay. These two contracts, when placed in juxtaposition, as everybody sees very plainly, were calculated to excite remark and to require explanation. As a matter of fact they did excite remark and they did receive examination. The contracts were followed on 13th April by a refund of £21,000 in respect of a portion of the articles sold to Meyer. Let us see what the action of the War Office was. These transactions took place in 1903 in South Africa, and in November they became subject to examination in the War Office. It must be remembered that the whole of these documents from South Africa were belated. I should explain why the ordinary procedure in regard to the examination of contracts of sale did not proceed *pari passu* with the transaction of the business itself during the time of war as in the time of peace. I believe that a system may be devised—I am bold enough to say that it has been devised—whereby the system continued in time of peace will now be continued in time of war; but it did not exist at that time. All these documents came in in enormous numbers for the review of the War Office. The whole of the arrangements of the War Office were then subject to considerable change, amounting almost to a revolution; but at the end of 1903 these documents were examined in the War Office; and this transaction was queried by the War Office, and the Paymaster in South Africa was desired to explain. On 26th March these documents went out to South Africa and were examined there. The Paymaster replied in a letter received on 18th April, in which it was said that the officer in charge of the forage supplies at Pretoria stated that, in accordance with instructions, the whole of the forage was sold to Meyer, provided that the same was in sound condition. In March, 1903, the debit voucher amounted to £127,000, but on taking delivery of the forage a large quantity was found, so it was said, to be deteriorated, and a refund of £21,232 was then made. The Auditor-General made a similar query, apparently with the same result. On the 5th of the following month a copy of the Paymaster's letter was sent to the Auditor-General, who made no comment on it at that time, and the explanation of the officer in South Africa was accepted. There was no knowledge at that time of the system on which these transactions had taken place. We merely had the vouchers of the officers; but the Auditor-General did take further notice in October of the same year. He asked what was the condition under which forage was offered for sale. Long before that period the War Office had been led by a totally different road to a similar inquiry. The Audit Department did not make a second query until 20th October, but long before that period the War

Mr. Arnold-Forster.

Office were making investigations. The War Office sent to South Africa for the contracts and in January, two months after, the reply came. We then sent a telegram asking for all the documents. We now come to the point: did the War Office know all the facts? They knew that the contracts were under the dual system, of which up to the end of 1903 they were not aware. These contracts had, however, been made for sound goods and they knew that a refund had been made. I do not intend to pronounce whether any or all of these transactions were right or wrong. But taken by themselves any one of them might still be legitimate, though they were so questionable when put together—side by side—that it was evident that an inquiry should be instituted.

Meanwhile another transaction, which, to my mind, was much more important, had been brought to the notice of the War Office. That was the transaction of the Stepney refund—a much smaller amount, but in some respects a case more calculated to rouse suspicion. At the beginning of the year 1903 Mr. Stepney contracted to supply oats and other forage at 17s. 10d., and this was accepted. In June, 1903, when the time came for delivery, Stepney had not got the oats. We undertook to supply him from our own stores and at first charged him the full amount for the oats. Probably that, on our own showing, was wrong. We subsequently paid him a refund of the difference between the lower price which he charged and the amount actually paid us.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, N.): What rate did he claim?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER. He claimed at surplus stock rates, 30s. This refund was actually made. The account of these transactions which took place in South Africa was in the first place passed at the War Office under what is known as a system of back examination. In consequence of the examination of the back account a letter was sent to the General Officer Commanding with a very plain indictment of the transaction in which it was stated that it was not clear to the Army Council why the forage to the troops was not issued without the intervention of Mr. Stepney, and that in the absence of explanation the transaction was likely to convey the impression that the Army made the contractor a present of £1,270. That was the point raised by the War Office and the statement sent out demanding explanation from the authorities of South Africa. The letter was dated June 23rd, 1904. As a matter of fact, the reply did not reach this country until October 31st. It was a long interval, I admit, but it does not represent neglect. The authorities in South Africa found it necessary to refer the matter to the officer principally concerned for his observations. The whole transaction had taken place in South Africa, and it was necessary that the authorities on the spot should make the communication. They replied the moment they received the explanation. When received on October 31st the reply appeared to strongly condemn the transaction, and the Quartermaster-General took action immediately. Inquiries were made from Colonel Hipwell and others, and Major Walton was consulted. So far as he could the Director of Supplies satisfied himself, and, the Financial Department having reported that an investigation was needed, a Departmental Committee of inquiry was ordered, and light was thrown on previous transactions on which explanations had been received. The Finance Department had the matter brought before them, and as soon as they found anything in the documents referring to past contracts they proceeded with the inquiry I have described and gave information to me.

SIR ROBERT REID: Is it the case that the right hon. Gentleman was informed in September or October, 1903, that the Army Service Corps were selling at one price and buying back at another price from the same person?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Personally, no, I was not. It is stated in the evidence, I think, that the double sales were brought to the notice of the War Office in October.

SIR ROBERT REID: There was a telegram of October 1st, 1903, in which the War Office stated to General Lyttelton

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I will not attempt to decide between the view of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton and the view of the hon. Member for King's Lynn. The Report having been presented to the Public Accounts Committee, it would be known to the House almost as soon as it was known to the Committee. It had actually been quoted from, and I go further and say that I think any Member of this House has the right to inspect the documents of the Public Accounts Committee. I have been censured for appending to that Report the statement that, as far as charges against individuals are concerned, the matters dealt with in the Report must be regarded as *sub judice.* I do not go back on that statement. I thought it was imperative, in view of the character of the Report, and in view of the position in which it left those persons who were arraigned directly or indirectly by that Report, that I should make some statement of that character. I think I could have done no less than warn those not cognisant, as I was cognisant, of what had taken place, of the error which they would make if they proceeded from the imperfect evidence contained in that Report to draw conclusions unfavourable to the characters of soldiers and others who were concerned in that Report. I will go further. I will say that it was necessary in the interests of a larger body than those specifically named in that Report. I desire once more to call attention to the following paragraph in the Report, with which I am in cordial agreement—

> "The impression may have arisen that the whole Army Service Corps in South Africa was concerned in these transactions. There is no evidence in support of this idea. On the contrary, there is proof that the decisions by which these transactions were authorised were given in opposition to the opinion of the officers of the Army Service Corps, who at outside stations had to deal locally with these questions."

That was one of the many and sufficient reasons which led me to append a note to the Report, stating that in my opinion the case was still *sub judice.*

What the issue will be no one can say. But I can assure the House that I share the view which has been expressed by the Secretary of State for India, who has already dealt so minutely and with great ability with this case. We desire nothing better than to place all the facts before any tribunal that may be selected by this House. When that tribunal has adjudicated, whether we shall hold precisely the same opinions that some hon. Members seem to have formed in anticipation of that inquiry I am not quite sure. I am deeply indebted to my right hon. friend, who has borne so much of the burden that I ought to have borne, and has borne it so much better than I could have done. Neither he nor I have ever desired to keep back from the public any information that they are justly entitled to. He has expressed his belief, and I reiterate it, that the further this inquiry goes the more thoroughly will be established the integrity of the Army and the honesty and capacity of the vast proportion of those who serve in its ranks. It is because I believe that, and for no other reason, that I wish this inquiry to take place in precisely the form in which it has now been decided that it shall take place. I have absolute confidence that we shall receive a judgment at any rate that will be satisfactory to us all, because it will be a true statement on the matter.

Mr. ROBSON (South Shields), whose opening sentences were inaudible owing to the movement of Members on the floor of the House, said: The right hon. Gentleman has told us that Sir William Butler's Report is not what he expected, and that it is not what he wanted; he says the Committee was appointed to assist him; and he adds that he is not responsible for the publication of its Report; so that he has done his best to deprive himself of the personal credit of the appointment of the Committee and of the publication of its Report. But there is one circumstance upon which he has left us in some obscurity. I think the House is mainly concerned in learning from him when as head of the Department he first knew of the matters now in question. We know that the Department were informed of them by the letter dated March, 1903, appended to the Report.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The letter was not received at the War Office until the Report was published.

MR. ROBSON: It seems a very curious thing—I make no comment on it—that this colonel should write an official letter in relation to a matter so important, and one coming within the scope of War Office duty and functions, and that the War Office should have heard of it only by the publication of this Report two years afterwards. However, the right hon. Gentleman came into office in October, 1903. In November, 1903, according to the telegrams to which we have listened this afternoon, fresh information was expressly given to the War Office, but, so far as we can understand the right hon. Gentleman's speech, he does not get information of the matter until December 7th, 1904. That is a very long interval, and we were anxious to hear how the right hon. Gentleman explained it. I am not attacking the right hon. Gentleman, but surely the head of a great Department ought not to remain in ignorance of a matter so important as this without some minor officials being held responsible. It certainly shows a somewhat remarkable laxity of administration.

Passing to the remarkable and vigorous defence of the ex-Secretary of State for War, I would ask the House to consider what it all amounts to. What has the right hon. Gentleman admitted, what has he omitted, and what has he answered? He has admitted—indeed, he could not deny—the dual system of sales and repurchases—a very euphemistic way of describing what seems to have been the most insane proceeding known in the history of any Administration. He has also admitted that the system is a bad one; and he has admitted, too, what is of great importance in relation to the question of Ministerial responsibility, that he knew nothing whatever about it. An important charge against the Government was that the South African authorities had been permitted to cease sending their monthly returns of the sales of stores, and upon that the right hon. Gentleman has given no explanation or defence whatever. Then what has he omitted? He has omitted all reference to the specific cases dealt with in the Report of the Committee. And what has he denied? He has made a remarkable denial, which I hope the House will not pass over without grave examination. He has denied the statement that these stores were offered to the Repatriation Department and refused by them. That is a most important denial to which I will return presently. One of the most important parts of the indictment of my hon. and learned friend was that in which he pointed out that the Government had been warned, I will not say of the probability of these scandals, but of the existence of a state of things in South Africa and of a condition of affairs in the Supply Department from which reasonable men might well infer that some mischief such as that which has arisen might be expected to rise. The matter was raised by the Leader of the Opposition himself in March, 1902, and the Government ought to have made the most careful inquiry. If it had been a business house instead of a Government Department what would have happened? On the disclosures of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, any business house, without waiting for Select Committees or Royal Commissions, would, by the ordinary methods of business investigation, have informed itself by its agents in South Africa how far the facts disclosed reflected on the competence and capacity of Colonel Morgan and the Supply Department. Instead of adopting any such measures the Prime Minister gave one of those dialectical replies in which he delights. He said—

> "How can you expect us to lay the heavy burden of an inquiry of this kind upon the Department in the middle of a war?"

I agree that we could not have had a long litigious inquiry in the middle of the war, but that by no means exhausted the alternatives. There was still open what I have described as a business investigation. Or there was another course which ought not to have escaped the attention of the Government. Even if they preferred to pass a sponge over the past, they ought at least to have taken warning for the future. They should have done their best to ensure that in future contracts of any magnitude Colonel Morgan and the Supply Department were not left to their unchecked and unsupervised devices. That is the most vital part of the negligence of the Ministry.

That they did not take such steps adds to their responsibility to-day. There is, or used to be, a legal principle that every dog was allowed his bite, but after he had had his one bite his owner was held responsible in damages for subsequent bites. The Parliamentary debate in 1902 showed that Colonel Morgan had had his "bite," and if the Government insisted in maintaining him in office they did it at their own risk. The charge against the Government cannot be too explicitly stated. They were indifferent to the interests of the British taxpayer. That charge, I think, I can make good, and indeed amplify. They were not merely indifferent to the interests of the British taxpayer, but when the interests of the British taxpayer came into conflict with the interests and desires of local speculators in South Africa the interests of the British taxpayer had to give way.

Now that brings me to the question of repatriation—one which I think the Secretary of State for India scarcely appreciates. My hon. and learned friend stated that the Repatriation Committee refused to take over the stores. The Secretary of State for India asked where is the evidence of that? In the very lengthy Blue-book that has been issued it is one of the most important points in Colonel Morgan's evidence. Colonel Morgan stated in explicit terms that he was present at an interview in Lord Milner's house when it was decided that the Repatriation Committee should refuse to take over the stores. Does this House really appreciate what that means? If it is true, and I see no reason to doubt its truth, it is a worse thing than the Meyer scandals and the dual system of sale and re-purchase. In the supreme duty of repatriating the victims of the war, the British taxpayer had the advantage of these immense quantities of stores, which were just of the kind that were wanted, and just in the places most convenient for distribution. But the taxpayer was not allowed to use this advantage. What was the excuse? It was that "it would not be fair to the local merchants." I hope the inquiry will discover who these merchants were, and what were the prices they obtained for their stocks. Though their names are not given, it is possible to entertain a shrewd suspicion of the sort of names they will be. Meanwhile these very merchants were "in a state of war" with us, according to Colonel Morgan's evidence, for they were "making a corner" against the Government. These were the gentlemen for whom the taxpayer was mulcted. I say that the worst part of this scandal is the repatriation part. I should like to know who it is who deserves reprimand in that matter. The Colonial Secretary at that time was the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. If ever the quality of a business man was wanted it was here. I hope that those who take further part in the debate will fasten attention on the monstrous and scandalous fact, as revealed by the Report of the Committee, that we had stores in South Africa, and that we were not allowed to use them in order that we might put unearned profits into the pockets of local speculators.

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I was the individual who was responsible to some extent for inducing the Government to appoint the Contract Committee in 1900, which had to investigate the question of rotten hay and the bad stores supplied at that time. We found that everything was for the best in the best of all possible Departments, that the hay went bad, that nobody was to blame at all, and that nobody was to be hanged for it. Well, I suppose that this Commission will probably come to a different conclusion. I have never been an enthusiastic admirer of the War Office since I have been in this House. I have never been able quite to understand what they were about, and I have never been surprised at anything they have done. But I am to some extent surprised at the Report of the Committee of Sir William Butler. There are two or three things which I find it quite impossible to understand. One is that the general officer in command should have full powers placed in his hands and should know nothing of what was going on in this particular matter.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

SOUTH AFRICA (SALES AND REFUNDS).

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [26th June], "That the conduct of His Majesty's Government in connection with the supply and disposal of Stores and the Sales and Refunds to Contractors in South Africa at the end of the War, and their failure to inquire promptly into and deal with those transactions, deserve the censure of this House."—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)—

Question again proposed.

Sir CARNE RASCH: Mr. Speaker, before the adjournment I ventured to say that in my opinion the usual steps appear to have been taken that always are taken in matters of this kind. I do not propose to take up the time of the House at any length, but I must ask the indulgence of hon. Members for a short time because I have had some experience in these contract Committees. I was instrumental in getting the Committee on Contracts appointed by the Government in March, 1900. The Report of the Committee was not particularly satisfactory, and I hope the Report of the Committee now appointed will be more satisfactory. In the Committee on Contracts appointed in 1900 we had to examine and report on the stores shipped to the front nine months prior in the beginning of the war. The result was not particularly striking. We found that everything was for the best in the best of all possible War Offices and that nobody was to blame. We proved that the hay went bad of itself and that we could blame nobody and do nothing, and shortly afterwards the right hon. Gentleman the Chairman of the Committee was called to another place. On this particular occasion, too, I also had the pleasure of telling the House that I was never surprised at anything the War Office did, and that I had consistently opposed them ever since I had been in the House.

I do not think in this case the War Office is wrong, and I am certain the Government are not to blame. But I was surprised to find that a general officer, by his own confession, knew nothing of what was going on in this connection, and I thought it was odd that when financial experts were sent out to South Africa by the War Office to report on the question of finance that they should not see what was going on under their noses. I myself, at this particular period, put a Question to the Secretary of State for War calling attention to this matter of the selling of these stores which the War Office appeared to know nothing about, and of which very few people in the country had any notion. I cannot understand why, when there was a plethora of stores at the central depot and none in the Transvaal, and next to none in the Orange Free State, the stores should not have been transferred instead of being sold. Would it not have been better to have sent the stores to the Orange Free State and the Transvaal rather than to have sold them as they did? I certainly cannot see why we should sell with the left hand and buy in again at double the price with the right. What the country would like to know is, was the Government right in trusting men who had betrayed their trust, what was the real amount of loss caused by the sale of these stores, and whether the Government did their best with the not very efficient weapon to their hands.

So far as the Report goes, it is not my purpose to say much about it, but, as one connected with the Press, I should say it is rather an excellent piece of picturesque and descriptive reporting than a great State Paper. I do not think the Government is to blame, because I do not think that any Government could have done more to sweep out the Augean stables at Pall Mall and put the War Office on a proper footing than the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues in the present Government—

> "The mills of God grind slowly
> But they grind exceeding small,"

and the mills of the War Office grind very slowly also, but I think they have made considerable progress during the last nine years. Neither the Government nor the War Office are to blame, but rather the man in the street and the

House of Commons. Everybody knows that when an Army debate is engaging the attention of the House everybody flies to the furthest corner of the building as if the plague was in this Chamber, and so far as the country is concerned everybody knows that for the last 200 years it has been impossible to get the country as a body to take an intelligent interest in the Army at all. It is abandoned by the country, which pays the men who do the fighting for it as little as it can, and grumbles when it pays the bill. We had a considerable amount of flash music-hall enthusiasm when the war was on—"killing Kruger with your mouth—" by men who would not pay 6d. towards it, and directly the war was over the Army was dropped like a hot potato. As to the present condition of things which make us the laughing stock of Europe, as we are in this matter, that is not the fault of the War Office or the Government, but the fault of the neglect of the Army by the country ever since the Army was instituted.

*Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): The balance of argument in favour of the defence so far has rested on the speech of the Secretary of State for India. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman questioned the competence of the Butler Committee and General Butler in particular, and his case was to sweep that away and the responsibility of the Government disappears entirely. Now I traverse that at once. If the Butler Committee had not been appointed the responsibility of the Government would have been as great. I do not intend to attack the Government on the ground of the Butler Committee Report—but on the Report of the Elgin Commission of 1902–3, and on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of January 31st this year. And I must say those two Reports constitute in my opinion a monumental record of administrative incapacity. I do not think there is anything more monumental than the incompetency displayed throughout the whole of this miserable South African affair, than the patience of the British public. Again and again have Reports been issued which have filled the public with shame and dismay at the disclosures of grave incompetence on the part of the Government. The public grumbles for a few weeks and then, having footed the Bill for the millions out of which it is fleeced, they have gone away consoling themselves for some mysterious and inscrutable reason with the reflection that it will be just as bad or perhaps worse next time. And so, Mr. Speaker, will it be so long as the public attitude is what it is. So long as the public's only punishment for incapacity on the most colossal scale is to shrug its shoulders and say, "Oh, let bygones be bygones," things will be just as bad in the future as they have been in the past. To "let bygones be bygones" is a fine sporting instinct; but there are times when you dare not indulge it.

I cannot pursue the subject at any length, but take the record of three years prior to the outbreak of the war. What was the experience of the Government? They were literally bombarded in 1896, 1897–1898 with precise and detailed information as to the Boer preparations for the war. Sir William Butler, Sir John Ardagh, Major Altham, Mr. Conyngham Green, Admiral Harris, Sir Andrew Noble, and scores of others, sent week after week the most detailed statements of the state of affairs we should have to meet. What happened to those statements I do not know; nobody appears to have heard them, but as a matter of history, I know that the campaign had not opened three weeks before our supplies were all exhausted and we were brought to the verge of national disaster. What did Sir George Taubman Goldie report—

> "That only an extraordinary combination of fortunate circumstances, external and internal, saved the Empire during the early months of 1900."

And Viscount Esher went further and added the note to the Report—

> "The condition in 1899 as disclosed in Sir Henry Brackenbury's memorandum shows that either the Secretary of State was guilty of culpable neglect or that he was in ignorance of the facts."

What has happened since then? Was anybody brought to book? Certainly not. The Secretary of State for War was promoted to the office of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and made Leader of the Government Party in another place. Now take what happened subsequently. Take the matter we are dealing with now, which is only one incident of the contract scandals, brought before the House with the greatest possible detail on January 31st, 1902, by the hon. Member for East Mayo, particularly with reference to the Cold Storage Company. Nothing was done with regard to that. The most specific details were given as to the enormous profit these people were making by selling frozen meat when they had undertaken to sell fresh meat, and a few weeks later the matter was raised in a more acute form. On March 17th the Leader of the Opposition moved—

> "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into all contracts and purchases made by or on behalf of the Government for His Majesty's forces in South Africa, in respect of remounts, meat, forage, and transport."

and he said with great political prescience—

> "What we want to do is to protect the taxpayers' interest, which is our prime duty; and that protection can only be given by inquiring now while the matter is red hot."

He was hotly opposed by the Government for the reason that, although the war was over in 1900, for the purposes of the general election, when it came to a question of inquiry in 1902, the war was not over, and the Secretary of State for War, the present Secretary of State for India, then said it would be playing into the hands of our enemies in the field to enter into the question. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot finish a war for the purposes of an election and open it afresh when inquiry is demanded. I remember what the Secretary of State for India said in March, 1902, when this Commission was asked for. It was this—

> "I do appeal to all Members of the House who desire the campaign to be satisfactorily carried through to support the Government, not in burking any inquiry at the present moment for their own advantage, but in postponing it to a season when it can be properly carried through, being confident in the interval that everything which devotion to the public service can do will be done to provide our Army in the field with those things which will make it efficient with the least possible cost to the public."

The disclosures of the Comptroller and Auditor-General's Report of 1904–5 show how that promise has been carried out for the four years. The answer to the refusal of the right hon. Gentleman and the Government to grant an inquiry in 1902 is to be found not only in the Report of the Butler Committee, but in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. I should like to know how many millions have been wasted as the result of the refusal of the Government to grant the inquiry in March, 1902. The hon. Member for King's Lynn says it is about £6,000,000. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India took one small point and said we had bought material to the amount of £1,270,000, and sold it at a loss of £500,000—a loss of 40 per cent. on the transactions. The right hon. Gentleman took that small point out of the whole of this expenditure of £250,000,000, and then he laid his hand upon his heart and said, "What fine sound business men we are." If the right hon. Gentleman conducted his own private affairs in that way he would find he would make the acquaintance of the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy in about a fortnight. Nobody was punished. The right hon. Gentleman was promoted to be Secretary of State for India as a reward for his great incompetence. The Government has been conspicuously consistent in all these dealings. Their attitude has been one of supercilious indifference and unconcern either to Parliamentary or public opinion. So long as that attitude could be maintained the Government maintained it.

The Government has had to be pushed on in all these matters by the House of Commons, which has had to wring replies out of them. Take one proof of what I say; take the specific cases dealt with by the Butler Committee which were also dealt with in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, which was issued to Members on Friday, March 10th. Those who read that Report saw that it was an appalling document. I asked a Question on Monday, March 13, of which I had given private notice, as to whether the Prime Minister would grant facilities for the discussion of this Report issued on the previous Friday. What was the Answer I received? The right hon. Gentleman replied—

> "As I have regretfully had to say more than once, in the present state of public business, it is impossible for me to grant the facilities asked for."

Then the Press began to take notice of the Report, and to comment upon it, and it was then seen to be a State document of the gravest importance. A storm began to brew. I put the Question down again on Thursday, March 16 four days after, and this was the reply I received—

> "In my opinion the matter of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is of a very serious character and requires to be thoroughly sifted. The very last thing I desire is that the House should be excluded from any legitimate opportunity of probing the matter to the bottom."

That is the Answer I received on the Thursday following the statement on the Monday that no facilities could be given. Why this sudden change? Because the Government saw that there was going to be trouble over this matter and that the public were going to take a real interest in it.

Now I turn to the speech of the present Secretary of State for War to deal with one point he made this afternoon. The right hon. Gentleman stated this afternoon that he did not know of this dual system of sales to the Government from a contractor and repurchases back from the Government by the contractor until January 7th this year. I accept his statement, but when I turn to the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, issued to this House on March 10th, but signed on January 31st this year, I see on this point the Comptroller and Auditor-General says—

> "In paragraph 82 of last year's Report a brief reference was made to certain large sales and purchases of forage apparently entailing a considerable loss which seemed to require further explanation. Further transactions of a similar nature have been observed in the course of the examination of the accounts for 1903–4, and in March last I drew the attention of the War Office to the different rates at which similar stores brought to account in the same month had been sold to, and purchased from Contractor 'A.' To this query, which will be found printed in the appendix, no reply has been received."

It is a very serious thing for a conscientious Minister to be left in such a position as to have to get up and say that he did not know about this until January 7th this year.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I said that I did not know anything had arisen out of it calling for inquiry. We made the inquiry, it is quite true.

*DR. MACNAMARA: If the War Office made the inquiry why did they not send it on to the Comptroller and Auditor-General?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It was sent.

*DR. MACNAMARA: It was not received when this Report was issued on January 31st. Remember the inquiry was fifteen months before this. Why did it take fifteen months to transmit? Now Contractor B and Contractor C are similar cases. I need not go into the details except to say that oats were sold to the Government at 17s. 10d. per 100 lbs. and repurchased at 11s. All this is set out in great detail in this Report and the information must have been in the possession of the War Office in March, 1904. The right hon. Gentleman told the hon. Member for Monmouth on Friday last that those firms were no longer contractors. Pressed with further inquiry on Friday last as to when these contractors' names had been struck off the list of Army contractors, the right hon. Gentleman answered "on June 1st this year." Why did the War Office take fifteen months to strike off their names? There is one other point. If the War Office was not familiar with all this, has not the right hon. Gentleman any comment to make on the evidence of Colonel Morgan before the Butler Committee? Question No. 5150 was addressed to Colonel Morgan by Colonel Hadfield, and attention was drawn to the following telegram sent out in September, 1903, addressed to the general at Pretoria—

> "Central Supply Account, June last, shows large sales of hay, bran, mealies, and meal to contractors, and purchases of same class articles from the same persons at higher prices; telegraph explanation of institution of this, and report by post."

The reply arrived in October stating that Meyer, Limited, had purchased for large sums hay, bran, and mealies, and that on December 4th last a tender was accepted from the same firm to supply first-class goods. Public money was saved by the transaction. My question is, if the present Secretary for War did not know that there was anything to call for explanation till January 7th, 1905, how was it that the War Office sent that telegram in September, 1903, to South Africa calling for this explanation? I accept the right hon. Gentleman's statement that he did not know. But why did he not know? Who was keeping him in the dark?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is perfectly obvious why I did not know of the queries which had been made. The answer to that telegram was regarded at the time as satisfactory, but when the Finance Department came to examine the accounts and vouchers, they considered the explanation was not satisfactory, and it was because they considered it unsatisfactory that we appointed this Departmental Committee.

*DR. MACNAMARA: The reply came back on October 1st, 1903, and was deemed to be satisfactory by the then Secretary for State, and yet these people were allowed to go on contracting till June 1st, 1905. I consider the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman most unsatisfactory. This is only one characteristic incident in the whole story of administrative incompetence. I believe that the whole thing was a muddle, that the War Office authorities did not know about it, and that now on June 1st, when the row began, these people were struck off the list. The House of Commons must not be told that fifteen months were allowed to pass without some explanation being given. Take another characteristic incident from the amazing mass of ineptitude. Here is a Parliamentary Paper giving details of stores destroyed in South Africa because of their deterioration, or because they were defective in the first instance. Between 1889 and 1901 £250,000 worth of stores were destroyed, and, with regard to £106,000 worth of that amount the War Office is not in a position to give the names of the contractors who supplied these stores! To whom did they pay the bill? Where are the receipts? They must have the receipts, and yet they cannot tell us the names of the contractors! Take another characteristic instance which had to do with stores. Fifty million rounds of small arms ammunition were found to be unserviceable and completely useless, and they were broken up. Yet the War Office cannot tell us the names of the firms who supplied these 50,000,000 rounds of ammunition. We are bound to come to grief if we go on in this way. But I am quite hopeless of reform. I do not think anything will be done in this matter. Probably the House will reject this vote of censure and we shall go on in the same old way. The Government will be whitewashed; everybody will be whitewashed, just as they were after the terrible Report of the Roebuck Commission fifty years ago. The public will be angry for about six weeks, and then there will be test cricket matches, billiard tournaments, and bridge problems, and all will be forgotten. But one fine day we British muddlers will run up against a thoroughly and scientifically organised Power like Japan, and then John Bull will awake in real earnest, cursing the happy-go-lucky folly and unconcern which in the end will have been his undoing.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): A serious feature of this debate is the very light-hearted way in which the present Secretary for War has treated a very serious matter. We are not discussing the individual responsibility of the officers in South Africa or at the War Office; we are discussing the responsibility of His Majesty's Ministers for a very tremendous waste of money. The question is—Has the indictment of my hon. and learned friend been brought home to the conviction of this House? I have not the slightest doubt that if the vote were to be taken by ballot every Member in the House would be found against the Government. Not a single Member on the Ministerial side of the House, who was not officially connected with the Government, has stood up in his place to defend the Government. And certainly the defence put forward by the right hon. Gentleman who was primarily responsible, the Secretary for India, and by the present Secretary for War is not any real defence to the charges made against them. So far as the knowledge of the House is concerned the dual system of contracting was the primary cause of the enormous waste of money to the nation. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for India, under whose administration the dual system was set up, has admitted to-day that he knew nothing about the dual contract system, and that it was wholly indefensible. That fact in itself goes to condemn the Government. The right hon. Gentleman knew nothing whatever about it, and yet he, in a mysterious manner, hints that there are parties of whom we know nothing yet to be brought to account. So far as it can be called a defence, it is the weakest defence ever offered by a responsible Administration to this House and the country. I ask every business man in the House whether, if they were directors of a company and the secretary or managing director were guilty of such *laches*, would not the shareholders insist at once on such a secretary or such a managing director being dismissed from the management of the company? Why should we not apply the same action to the political directors of the nation? In September, 1903, it was known to the War Office that there were grave irregularities in respect to these contracts which had resulted in the large loss, and a telegram was sent to Sir Neville Lyttelton, the representative of the Government in South Africa, to know what was the explanation; and yet to day the director at the War Office stood up and said that he knew nothing about this dual system of contractors until December, 1904.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I did not know anything at that date arising out of the dual system which called for action.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: Did you, or did you not, know? I desire to put my Question with every courtesy, and I am sure that the right hon. Gentleman will have the courtesy to give me a proper Answer.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman must address the Chair, and put his Question in the third person.

Sir James Woodhouse.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: Did the right hon. Gentleman know before the month of December last, that on October 1st, 1903, this telegram was sent by the War Office to General Lyttelton?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Most certainly not.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: Then when did the right hon. Gentleman first become aware of this inquiry being made by the War Office at the end of September, 1903?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have already stated that as soon as I became aware there was any irregularity I took proceedings by instituting an inquiry. I was aware in June and July that there was matter for inquiry, and, as I have already informed the hon. Member, inquiry was being made. I was not aware at all for months that this telegram had passed. After all, it was one of thousands of transactions which were going through the Financial Department of the War Office in connection with transactions which had taken place long before I had anything to do with it. I had nothing whatever to do with the initiation of these transactions. When the vouchers came to hand to be checked I took what steps I could to see the checking was effective.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: I gather from that statement that the right hon. Gentleman really did not know of that inquiry by the War Office in September, 1903, until the month of June, 1904. It is something to get such an admission as that. The right hon. Gentleman then caused further inquiries to be made in South Africa and got no reply until October 31st, 1904.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is not what I said; that is not the fact. I said the final reply was not given until the date I named. I explained what took place; that there had been intermediate correspondence in order to enable the authorities in South Africa to give us their reply.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: Between June, 1904, and October 1st, 1904, correspondence was being carried on on the subject of these contracts, and then the authorities in South Africa said: "Why, you have in England Captain Limond who could tell you all about this. What are you writing to us about?"

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is not the fact. I said the authorities in South Africa we had communicated with were not able to answer this inquiry without communicating with Captain Limond, and when they had communicated with him they communicated with us.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: It is typical of the way the War Office conduct their business.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The War Office had nothing whatever to do with it.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: If the answer is that the War Office had nothing whatever to do with it, that is not the view which the country will take.

MR. ARNOLD FORSTER: They had nothing whatever to do with the fact that the authorities in South Africa thought it necessary, in order to make out their reply, to communicate with Captain Limond. They had nothing whatever to do with it. They were not aware of it. The hon. Member has no right to travesty that into a statement that the War Office had nothing whatever to do with the matter.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: My only wish is to elicit information from the right hon. Gentleman. I understood him to say that Captain Limond was in England, and that he could give information. Why did the right hon. Gentleman not get hold of Captain Limond and get to the bottom of that matter at that time. It seems to me that the War Office did not wish to take a shortened cut to get at the bottom of any case. Everything that they have done shows the ineptitude of the War Office. The real origin of this matter was the establishment of the system of dual contracts, and the ineptitude of the War Office in dealing with it. If the Quartermaster-General's original view, that there ought to be no local contracts, had been acted upon, there would never have been this dual system.

Another very extraordinary action on the part of the War Office was that, having ordered monthly returns of all sales and supplies to be sent, that was not carried out. That would have formed a most substantial check against this wastage and the consequent loss. I want to know who was responsible for the War Office cancelling that order in April, 1903.

*MR. BRODRICK, rising amidst OPPOSITION cries of "Answer!": I cannot name in this House, when the Commission is about to sit, names which will be brought before that Commission. I have my own views who is responsible; the Commission must decide.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: The Commission will deal with that point as affecting other individuals, but my point is that this is a serious matter for His Majesty's Ministers. As the right hon. Gentleman is responsible to this House, we have the right to ask him why there was cancelled on April 24th, 1903, an order for the return every month of the sales and stores in South Africa.

*MR. BRODRICK: I entirely decline to reply to these interrogatories. The Leader of the Opposition has chosen to impeach the Government on this question at the moment that the whole question is placed before a Commission. Am I to lay down before the decision what is or is not my view as to the responsibility attaching to certain persons? I know the persons and I know the facts.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): You are responsible.

*MR. BRODRICK: I am not in a position to do it, and I cannot do it. If I am not in a position to do it, it is because I am in the hands of those who have chosen to impeach the Government at this moment.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: This position is most extraordinary. It is treating the House like a lot of children. Hon. Members opposite may support the Government in the lobby with their votes, but I am perfectly certain the nation at large will not do so. The right hon. Gentleman was the managing director of this concern at that time, and stood up in the House and said he knew why that order was cancelled, but he declined to tell the House of Commons why. If hon. Members opposite after that could go into the lobby in support of the Government, there was an end to wise and prudent administration. Mr. Flynn, the officer sent out to South Africa on purpose to look into the administration of that matter, attributed the loss caused to the public to placing in the position of Director of Supplies an officer who, in his opinion, was obviously unequal to the post. The right hon. Gentleman was responsible for that, and that incapacity was not limited to the Director of Supplies. It extended to the Commander-in-Chief whom they sent to South Africa. General Lyttelton convicted himself as an incompetent officer, so far as those supplies were concerned, by his own evidence. The vague way he answered questions, and his forgetfulness on all material points, showed that he was no more capable of managing that matter than one of His Majesty's Ministers. A most extraordinary procedure took place. Meyer took all the stocks of oats at £127,000. He took them over under contract, having previously entered into a contract to sell back what he had bought. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No, no!"] But that is the evidence. I can give the exact dates. Meyer's tender was submitted on October 10th, and accepted on November 25th. Having secured the right to have all this forage he submits a tender to buy from us on December 4th. That is accepted on January 10th, although a fortnight before telegrams had gone forth giving instructions to hand over the whole supply at 11s. per 100 lbs., to Meyer. Having secured the right to have all this forage from the Government, and having become responsible for this large sum of money, Meyer discovered that some of the oats were bad—or rather, that is the allegation, though there is not the slightest tittle of evidence in support of it. He made a claim in respect to these alleged bad oats, and was given a refund of £21,000. He actually got a cheque for this amount before we received a farthing of money from him. But my complaint in this matter is against the General Officer Commanding. When General Lyttelton was asked how it was that such a cheque could be given without his authority he replied, "There may have been a practice of writing on a paper 'G. O. C. approves,' but it does not follow that I had seen it." If you have a commanding officer carrying on a system like that, it is not surprising that these large sums of money should have disapeared in South Africa in the way they have done. I should like to know, *apropos* of what the Secretary of State for India has said this afternoon, when he tried to belittle the figures as to the loss to the nation as against the five or six millions we undoubtedly did lose——

*MR. BRODRICK: No.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the War Office did not advise the right hon. Member for Croydon, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, that there would be five or six millions of money resulting from these resales?

*MR. BRODRICK dissented.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon is not in his place or I would have asked him the question. Perhaps we shall get that important piece of evidence, which I believe exists, established by the Royal Commission. [At this moment Mr. RITCHIE entered the House and took his seat.] I am glad to see the right hon. Gentleman in his place, and I will repeat the statement. I will ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not the fact that, during his tenure of the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, the War Office led him to believe that five or six millions sterling would be forthcoming from the sales of these surplus stores in South Africa?

*MR. RITCHIE (Croydon): I do not know that I ought to be interrogated quite in that way. I think I have already stated in the House during one of the financial discussions — I forget which —that I was informed by the War Office, at the time of my considering the Budget, that they hoped to be able to return about six millions, which I expected might pay off some of the Floating Debt.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: I thought my recollection was not so bad as the memory of the right hon. Gentleman. I am afraid I have already occupied the attention of the House too long ["No, no!"]—but in conclusion I wish to say that I hope the House will, after due consideration of the whole of the circumstances, come to the conclusion that this is a serious matter for the nation and the Government, and not one to be treated in the light-hearted way which has been adopted by right hon. Gentlemen opposite.

Mr. McKENNA: I hope that after the statement just made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon that the Secretary for India will reconsider his decision in regard to this debate. The right hon. Gentleman asked the House for this money in order to purchase supplies, and we voted him that money. He stated, in June, 1902, that the value of stores in South Africa was about £7,000,000, and that he hoped to hand over to the Chancellor of the Exchequer between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 as the result of the sale of these stores. Does the right hon. Gentleman not consider that it is his duty to explain to this House why it is that £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 were not paid over. As part of the system of sales and contracts for supplies in South Africa, the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India received monthly statements up to the end of October, 1902. He asked for the continuance of those statements, but he did not get them. Will the right hon. Gentleman still refuse to tell the House, who gave him the money for the supplies and who has a right to ask what he had done with the money, why those statements were not made monthly? [Opposition cries of "Answer, Brodrick."] I appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite to support this demand, especially when they are told by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer that £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 should have come back to the taxpayers, but did not. Why was it that the right hon. Gentleman did not insist upon getting a monthly statement as to the condition of our stores?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am going to speak later on; perhaps the hon. Member will allow me to reply. [Opposition cries of "Brodrick."]

Mr. McKENNA: The Prime Minister has not been in the House throughout the debate, but the right hon. Gentleman near him said that he knew the reason, but would not mention the names, because they would be disclosed before the Royal Commission. I maintain that the House of Commons has a prior right to the information. The money of the taxpayers has been voted on the responsibility of the House, and, as the right hon. Gentleman receives his salary out of the taxpayers' money, he is bound to account to those who represent the taxpayers, and inform us why the ordinary precautions were not taken to see that these stores were properly disposed of. I again appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to state who is the guilty party, and not screen himself behind someone else. You have had the money and you must account for it. Let the right hon. Gentleman disclose the name of that somebody else whom he says is really the guilty party, and let that somebody else be charged. Give the person charged an opportunity of being heard, but do not let this important matter be left to the Royal Commission. I appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to tell us why those monthly statements, which would have prevented the whole of this waste, were not sent in accordance with the plan made by the War Office at the time.

* Mr. BRODRICK: I have already told the House quite clearly the reason why the monthly statements which should have been rendered to the War Office were not rendered, and the responsibility which was attached to those not rendering them. I have also stated that, although I may have a clear view as to who is responsible, I will not, in the

peculiar circumstances in which we stand, when the Government and not those persons are being impeached, and when it has been clearly stated by the Leader of the Opposition that all other persons are to be brought before the Royal Commission, give my impression and my belief in order that every member of the reporters' gallery shall publish to the world to-morrow an incrimination of men whom it is the business of the Royal Commission to deal with. The hon. Member may be persistent, but he will find there is someone more persistent still on this side of the House. What has been alleged by the right hon. Member for Croydon is not in the least inconsistent with what I have stated to the House. I have told the House what the amount of the actual transactions were and what was the loss as far as I can ascertain it. There is no concealment, but there is on my part an absolute determination not to be made a party in the House, on a debate which in my humble judgment ought never to have taken place, to incriminate persons on my testimony before the opening of the Royal Commission. The Royal Commission will call these persons and they will call me, and before the Commission the whole of the facts will be placed.

Mr. McKENNA: If the right hon. Gentleman does not intend to disclose the name of some unknown person who he alleges is responsible he ought to have accepted the responsibility himself. He is the responsible Minister at the head of the Department, and if he accepts the advice of a junior officer he ought not to shield himself behind the name of that junior. The right hon. Gentleman is the guilty man—["Oh, oh!"]—unless he can show that this junior officer acted contrary to his orders and authority. In that case the right hon. Gentleman ought to disclose the name of the junior officer to the House, but if he accepts the action of the junior officer he ought to accept it now in the House and not attempt to shield himself behind it. Either the right hon. Gentleman is concealing from the House information which we ought to have, or he ought never to have charged against an unknown person, as he has done, the responsibility for this offence. The right hon. Gentleman asks—Is it to go down to the Royal Commission that this person is guilty? Will it not appear from what the right hon. Gentleman has already said that he considers this person is guilty? He has thrown the whole of the responsibility upon this unknown Lieutenant X, and when X is disclosed—and we can all guess who it is—it will be quite understood that the right hon. Gentleman charges him with having been the guilty party. And this is the right hon. Gentleman who was so careful to attack Sir William Butler's Report. If the debate is to be conducted with the concealments that have been apparent on the Ministerial Bench, then it is impossible to get at the truth, so far as fixing responsibility is concerned.

There is still one other point, and that is the responsibility of the Secretary of State. The right hon. Gentleman said the facts were only brought to his knowledge in January, 1905; but last year he was questioned about these very matters. Why, of his own initiative, did he not direct attention to the fact that all these millions were being wasted in South Africa? Out of this whole scandal there is this satisfaction, that though the War Office and two successive Secretaries of State have disregarded their duty, though the papers are lost, yet two years after the event, by the ordinary operations and safeguards for our finance, the Comptroller and Auditor-General is enabled to discover the whole scandal.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Before I proceed to make a brief reply to the general debate, I wish at the instance of my right hon. friend near me to correct a small error into which he fell in the course of the very remarkable speech which he delivered to the House. He informed the House, quite truly, that he sent out two separate sets of auditors to deal with the immense financial transactions in which the war in South Africa necessarily involved us, and he added that to the second of those, which dealt with supply and contracts, had been added a representative of the office of the Auditor-General. It is quite true that a representative of the Auditor-General did go out to South Africa, but his duty was not to deal financially with the second but with the first of these transactions. It is proper to make that correction, although it is not material to any of the great issues raised in the debate, but I do it at the request of my right hon. friend and in justice to the office of the Auditor-General. Now, having made that brief explanatory statement, may I ask the House whether there could have been a speech delivered which more clearly showed to all who listened to it, and to all, if such there be, who will read it to-morrow, than the speech of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, the extreme inconvenience of the debate in which we are now engaged from the point of view of public procedure and the credit of this House, but not at all, as hon. Gentlemen seems rather rashly to suppose, otherwise than as giving my right hon. friend an opportunity of making a statement which, whatever they may think of it, will, I am convinced, produce a wide and deep impression upon the country?

Let us just consider what the hon. Gentleman said, and take it in connection with the Motion before us. The hon. and learned Gentleman who opened this debate—than whom I do not believe, in spite of his strong political convictions, a juster man, a man with a greater natural love of justice, exists in this House—was scrupulously careful not to touch upon the performances or character of any individual subordinates except in so far as it was absolutely necessary for his purpose. But even he was forced against his will, by the necessities of the situation in which he has been placed by his friends near him, in order to support the thesis that the Governmant had behaved badly, to make some attacks on the subordinates of the Government, whose character, after all, they cannot come here to defend, which they will have an opportunity of defending before the Commission, but in regard to whom surely it is the grossest injustice and the most cruel hardship that they should find themselves attacked in a debate of this kind—a debate which hon. Gentlemen opposite, at all events, are not likely to deny is animated by the most bitter partisanship—that their personal honour should be called in question because hon. Gentlemen opposite want to turn us out of office. The hon. and learned Gentleman could not wholly avoid these dangers. He was scrupulously anxious, I am sure, to attack nobody but those who could defend themselves in this House; but no such anxious scrupulosity animated the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. Observe the inevitable dilemma in which hon. Gentlemen place us upon this bench. [Ironical cheers.] Yes, quite so. Just listen to what the dilemma is. They bring a vote of censure. There is a large body of persons concerned in these transactions, persons of different authorities and different grades, from the Ministerial heads of great Departments down to some subaltern in some far-off station in South Africa. They have been in one way or another connected with the great problem of dealing with supplies for a great Army, both during the war and after the war had come to its conclusion. The Opposition bring forward a Resolution in which, out of a great body of men, the Parliamentary heads of the Department, the late Secretary of State for War and the present Secretary of State for War, are alone attacked, and with them, no doubt, their colleagues; but they are primarily attacked; and if the fact be that neither of my right hon. friends was to blame, if the fact be that adequate precautions were taken by the late Secretary of State for War and that the present Secretary of State for War has done his best to get at the root of the scandals, or alleged scandals, with which we are dealing, what possible defence can be made except that the blame which does not attach to them does attach to some of their subordinates? [OPPOSITION cries of "Name."] I think that in some circumstances it might be necessary to name them.

MR. McKENNA: They ought to be dismissed if guilty.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is quite possible; but, at all events, are we going to drag these men into our debate on this particular day and in connection with this particular debate when we have just appointed by the general wish of the House a Royal Commission who are to examine, not merely into the conduct of my right hon. friends the present and the late Secretaries of State for War, but to examine into the whole of these transactions and into the conduct of everybody, military and civilian, official and unofficial, connected with them? Is it not an outrageous thing that with this Commission actually appointed the character of these men should be attacked? The hon. Member who has just sat down tried to drag out of my right hon. friend the names of persons who my right hon. friend, rightly or wrongly, thinks have withheld information from him that would have guided him to a knowledge of these transactions. But they have not been content with attempting to drag out the names of unknown persons. They have assailed by name other persons—for instance, Lord Milner has been dragged in. I was sorry that the hon. and learned Gentleman dragged in Lord Milner.

SIR ROBERT REID: Why not?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. and learned Gentleman asks, Why not? The reason why he ought not to be dragged in is that, if members of the Government and representatives of a Party may be first tried and then have the evidence against them taken by a Commission—while that is tolerable in the case of Party politicians, it is not tolerable in the case of persons who are not Party politicians. It is, in my opinion, a monstrous thing that Lord Milner should be held up by more than one speaker this afternoon as having advocated a policy injurious to the British taxpayer, intrinsically unjust, because it suited the African trader and, as I understood the allegation, because it suited those great contractors who have been made the special object of attack this afternoon.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): He is a Member of Parliament—a Member of the House of Peers. [OPPOSITION cheers.]

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Quite so, and that is cheered. That is what is called justice on the other side of the House. A great public servant happens

also to be a Peer. He is abroad, and cannot be, and has not been, examined, his own story has never been told, and a Commission has been appointed before whom it will be told, and hon. Gentlemen opposite think it right and fair on reflection to defend the course of making an attack on that man before he has had an opportunity of stating his case to the Royal Commission.

SIR ROBERT REID: I adverted to the fact that the observation by Lord Milner was stated in the evidence, and I expressly stated that I did not make a charge against him on the ground that he had not had the opportunity of being heard. I do not think it quite fair to accuse me of attacking Lord Milner.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I apologise. The hon. and learned Gentleman already knows how highly I think of him. I assure him I was not referring to him, but he has a learned brother sitting on the bench behind him who did not preserve the same decorous reticence. The Member for South Shields made a violent attack on Lord Milner.

MR. McKENNA: He did no such thing.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not attacking the hon Member for Monmouthshire. It comes to this, that when the Leader of the House replies for his Party, and a Gentleman to whom he is referring is not in the House, it is regarded as unfair to advert to him, but it is not unfair to attack Lord Milner.

MR. McKENNA: What the Member for South Shields did was only to read an answer given by Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan to a question. That answer speaks for itself and is already public property. Otherwise he made not a single suggestion against Lord Milner.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member is very chivalrous in answering for someone else, but he is, unfortunately, in error. One of the statements of the hon. Member for South Shields was that one of the worst parts of the scandal was connected with Lord Milner's refusal to take over the stores. What is true of the attacks on Lord Milner is surely equally true of the attacks on General Lyttelton. What has General Lyttelton to do with the terms of this Motion? The hon. Gentleman can answer for himself now. Why did he attack General Lyttelton?

Mr. McKENNA: I never mentioned General Lyttelton. I mentioned nobody's name. [Cries of "Withdraw."]

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I gladly withdraw and transfer the charge to the hon. Member for Huddersfield.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: The right hon. Gentleman says he has some charge to make against me. Will he kindly state what it is?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have stated it. The charge is simply that, while the Resolution attacks the Government alone —which I think in many respects is not a proper course, but of which I do not complain—hon. Gentlemen opposite have not confined the attack to members of the Government, who can answer for themselves, but have also attacked other persons who cannot answer for themselves, but who will have an opportunity of answering before the Commission. The hon. Gentleman attacked General Lyttelton a few moments ago.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: Had the right hon. Gentleman been in the House he would have known that——

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I was in the House.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: He would have known that the attack I made was against the Government for the appointment of an officer to supervise the administration in South Africa of these contracts and sales of stores who, upon his own evidence, to which I confined my quotations, proved his incompetence for the position. My charge was against the Government, not against him. [Opposition cheers.]

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I congratulate the hon. Gentleman and those who cheer him on this felicitous distinction. His attack is on the Government, but it is General Lyttelton who is incompetent. I do not think the hon. Member has gained by his interruption. Then the hon. Member for—I am not sure which hon. Member it was——

An HON. MEMBER: Because you were not here.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I was here, busily engaged in making the notes for the speech which I have now the satisfaction of making. I think it was the hon. Gentleman opposite who quoted the view of Mr. Flynn upon Colonel Hipwell. Why should the hon. Gentleman attack Colonel Hipwell?

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: I did not attack Colonel Hipwell.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: He quoted very deprecatory observations on Colonel Hipwell, and now says he was not attacking him.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: With great respect to the right hon. Gentleman I was proving an indictment against the Government for sending out to South Africa to have charge of these stores an incompetent officer. I wish it to be clearly understood that I did not call him incompetent. Your own officer whom you sent out called him incompetent.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Precisely, the hon. Gentleman quoted Mr. Flynn making derogatory observations on Colonel Hipwell. That is not attacking Colonel Hipwell, but the Government! I do not know whether he would in his own case accept that distinction. But does not the hon. Gentleman think it would be fair to hear Colonel Hipwell on Mr. Flynn? And that is doubtless what will happen before the Commission; but we cannot deal with it on an occasion like this; and that is only a further illustration of what I have been endeavouring to point out—that this idea of making an attack upon the Government, and on the Government alone, on an occasion of this kind is absolutely impossible. You drag in men whose characters you have no right to drag in, and you cause an infinity of undeserved pain to men who are incapable of defending themselves before this House. On what principle is this done?

On the ground that the Government as a Government are responsible for everything their subordinates do. I am not anxious to quarrel with that proposition, but a Government are not blameworthy for everything their subordinates do. They are not to be blamed for everything that happened and every error made by those under them. If so, I do not know what Government would escape that weekly vote of censure to which my hon. and gallant friend behind me referred. And the last persons who would themselves desire to be judged on that principle are the Gentlemen whom I see opposite, and who have had the responsibility of office in previous years.

I desire to point out to the House that there have been the grossest mistakes made, so far as I can discover, with regard to the amount of loss which the public have suffered in this connection. The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down apparently was of opinion that the whole of the £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 of which Lord Kitchener spoke was lost to the country; and he apparently adopted the rather rash estimate of my hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn, who, I think, uttered the extravagant proposition that only £500,000 of all that £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 had ever been realised, directly or indirectly, by the country. Lord Kitchener's estimate was, no doubt, made on a high estimate which was not, and could not be, realised; but, even taking it as you like, we realised for the repatriation fund £2,682,000—that includes blockhouses—for horses and for animals, £2,000,000, for the supplies sold to public contractors—the subject dealt with in this debate—£718,000, for the cost of feeding 140,000 persons six months in concentration camps, say, £1,000,000, and, in addition, the cost of feeding the Army that remained in South Africa for more than six months after the war. If you add all these figures together they come up, and more than come up, to Lord Kitchener's estimate. But I ought to remind the House that, of course, on the other side you have to put in the stores that came to South Africa under contracts after the war ended; and, although I cannot make out a balance-sheet precisely—nor do I imagine it is possible for anybody to make it out precisely at the present moment—

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

there can be no doubt whatever that the amount realised out of the stores came not to the £500,000 upon which hon. Gentlemen have been congratulating themselves in the course of the evening's operations, but to more than £6,000,000 or £7,000,000. I include all the saleable stores belonging to the Government at the end of the war, which is, I suppose, the only fair way of looking at it; and the conclusion I have been forced to come to from such investigation as I have been able to make diverges so widely and so violently from that of the hon. Gentlemen opposite that I thought they would like to know it. I rather gather that they think my figures are excessive, but I think I have better means of information than they have. And although I may make an error, which, of course, is possible—["Oh!"]—I never profess to be infallible, nor do I profess to have obtained this information for myself—these figures are given on better authority than any figures of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and they are, therefore, more worthy of the consideration of the House and of the country.

Now that I have disposed of the monstrous folly of the calculations upon which hon. Gentlemen have proceeded, I may say that upon one point I agree with the hon. Member for Lynn Regis, though I do not accept his calculations, that it is not wholly or in some respects the principal question what may be the amount of money lost to the country; the most important question undoubtedly is whether the honour of British officers is involved, and whether in their actions there has been anything in the nature of fraud or that which almost amounts to fraud. But although the amount of alleged loss is relatively unimportant as compared with that, it is of vital importance to the question upon which we are engaged, viz., whether the late Secretary for War took adequate precautions in regard to the matter. The precautions may or may not have been adequate, but at all events they have not resulted in great financial loss to the country. That loss has been grossly exaggerated, and, therefore, looked at in that aspect, my right hon. friend may well say they do not show that extraordinary laxity attributed to him.

But my right hon. friend can do more than rely on broad considerations; he can show that he has taken precautions that, so far as machinery of the kind can secure anything, he secured that no great scandal should occur in connection with contracts. I will not go over the various steps he took to secure financial supervision; he has detailed them to the House in a lucid and masterly manner, and I can add nothing to what he has said and which, no doubt, will carry due weight on both sides of the House. But is it not fair, when you are judging the action of a Minister responsible for very difficult transactions in difficult times, to compare that action with the conduct of his predecessors in similar circumstances? Does anybody contend that the War Office of 1901, 1902, and 1903 did not, on the whole, compare favourably in the questions of supply, transport, and contracts with—let us take the greatest preceding war, that in Egypt, or the war preceding that, in the Crimea? No one can compare these with the magnitude of the task which my right hon. friend successfully carried through. Consider the difficulties of the South African problem, the mere size of the country over which operations were carried on, which we are all apt to forget, the distance from home, the enormous strength of the Army engaged, incomparably greater than was ever sent from these shores before. [AN HON. MEMBER: What was the number of the enemy?] What has the question of keeping up supplies for 300,000 men to do with the number of the enemy? Consider not merely the size of the Army, but the enormous mass of documents involved, in these distant and scattered transactions. All these matters necessarily carried with them special and great difficulties. These were difficulties affecting the period of war, and nobody can forget that 300,000 men were supplied, and never a general uttered a complaint of the way in which his troops were supplied.

But peace has her difficulties as well as war, and we are now concerned with the manner in which my right hon. friend dealt with the problem after peace was declared. Was it an easy problem? Until he knew that peace was signed, it was necessary to make full provision for the supply of that gigantic force as if the war was to go on, and the result was that on the day peace was signed the War Office found itself burdened with contracts entered into in all parts of the world for stores of every kind and description, which had to be dealt with, to be cancelled at a loss or allowed to be carried out at a loss. To a great extent the contracts could not be cancelled; the goods had to be carried to South Africa; and South Africa as a market presented special difficulties, difficulties not the creation of the Government or the creation of anybody in South Africa or Great Britain. It was an enormous country ill supplied with population, ill supplied with stores, a country in which a commercial "ring" was peculiarly easy to engineer, and peculiarly difficult to deal with if it was engineered. I do not know—we must wait for the inquiry of the Commission to know—if such a ring existed and how far it penetrated. I have heard of rings being formed to deal with forced sales in this country; conceive a forced sale of perishable goods in such a country as South Africa. How was it possible for the Department to deal with the situation without loss and much difficulty? I am not going into detail, but I regretted to hear the hon. and learned Gentleman who opened this debate try to induce the House to believe that it was an inherently bad transaction that stores of all kinds should be sold at a price lower than that at which a portion of those stores might ultimately have to be bought back, or were ultimately bought back by those responsible for feeding the troops. There is nothing inherently absurd in that.

SIR ROBERT REID: I did not say that.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I certainly got that impression from what the hon. and learned Gentleman said, and it is, of course, an easy platform charge that goods were sold at such and such a price and bought at such and such another price, the second price being much higher than the first. Of course that may be a most excellent financial transaction

[Laughter.] Very well. I understand the hon. Gentleman to declare that he did not make that charge, but it is constructively made by all the Members behind him. I advise them to think over the problem a little, and they will see that, when you are dealing with these large masses of perishable goods, there can be no question whatever that that plan, which, I believe, was the plan advocated by Lord Kitchener, is not only a right one, but the right one, and, I suspect, the only one. The Army Service Corps cannot turn themselves into retail dealers. If the things have to be sold they must be sold in bulk; if they are sold in bulk, all the difficulties I have described—incidents of all kinds, especially incidents in South Africa—are sure to assail them, and without doubt there would be many transactions of great difficulty and as to which it might be doubtful whether they were right or wrong. Some of the transactions which have been brought to my notice seem to me quite incapable of explanation. But I do not dwell upon that, because it really is not relevant to this vote. Unless it can be shown that my right hon. friend did not send out a sufficient body of expert financial advisers to deal with the situation the attack on the Government is an absurdity. I do not think that when the Commission come to examine into the matter they will find that the questionable, perhaps even the guilty, perhaps even the criminal, transactions are very many; and, what is more important at this moment, more relevant to the division we are going to take, I am confident they will not find that my right hon. friend did not take all the precautions which reasonable foresight could suggest. Of this I am certain, he took more precautions than have ever been taken by any man in his place in the whole previous history of the country.

I confess that I do not think that the attacks made upon my right hon. friend in connection with the South African War show either much justice or much generosity on the part of those who make them. How easy it is to make criticisms upon the details of great transactions when those who make the criticisms have not been concerned in the transactions. The sacred poet compared wisdom to rubies, but he was not thinking of wisdom after the event when he made that comparison. I do not think that anything is more contemptible, I do not think anything shows the House of Commons in a worse light than to survey a great series of transactions like those that took place during the late war and to see only the bad and put aside all the good. I have listened to debate after debate in this House of which my right hon. friend has been the subject, but never have I heard from hon. Gentlemen opposite one word of generous recognition for an administrative effort which I believe to be one of the greatest ever made by a Minister of the Crown, which I believe, on the whole, to be one of the most successful ever made by a Minister of the Crown, which enabled us to send an Army into the field far above that which this House ever contemplated in voting the Estimates, and to provide for and supply it. Is that a small or contemptible performance? Is that a performance which my right hon. friend's critics think for one moment they could have performed? I do them an injustice. I believe they all think they could have performed it, but does anybody else think they could have performed it? This attack has been made upon my right hon. friend under circumstances almost deliberately contrived to prevent him making a complete and full Answer. He nevertheless has made an Answer which I believe has satisfied the House and will satisfy the country. I can only say that the great desire which I have that this question should be probed to the roots, that everything that is hidden should be brought to light, is based not merely upon a love of justice, not merely on a desire to see pure administration prevail in every branch of the public service, but also on the belief that nothing short of that complete examination will enable the country at last to do full justice to the great qualities of my right hon. friend.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think a good many Members of the House must be rubbing their eyes and wondering whether they have been dreaming all this time, because the right hon. Gentleman has got hold of a perfect paragon of a War Minister, and what he has done with him is to make him the Minister for India.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: He is a paragon Indian Minister.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: He might be a paragon Prime Minister. I do not know that it is any great compliment to the right hon. Gentleman to imply that all this machinery is to be set up, that a Royal Commission is to be appointed and an Act of Parliament introduced to endow it with sufficient power, in order to show to the world what a man the right hon. Gentleman is. But that was a little by-play on the part of the Prime Minister. He was mainly occupied, it seemed to me, in his lively speech in two things. He wished to minimise the amount of damage in these transactions, and to minimise the amount of the loss inflicted upon the taxpayer in this country. But, unfortunately, we could not follow his figures. He told us that he had made great investigations, he had a paper covered with figures, and he was ready to show how mistaken we had all been. And what he said was that while we had been glorying in the fact that the losses had amounted to £500,000, they had amounted to a much larger figure—namely, £7,000,000.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid the right hon. Gentleman did not follow me. The allegation was that of £7,000,000 we had only realised £500,000. That allegation was wholly absurd. I have shown that we realised £6,000,000 or £7,000,000.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Then the right hon. Gentleman says we have realised £6,000,000 or £7,000,000. I hope they are all safe in some corner and that we may get the benefit of them by-and-by. Then the right hon. Gentleman was greatly exercised because attacks had been made upon individuals in this debate. Everyone who was mentioned, everyone who was quoted in relation to certain established facts, is said to have been attacked. There have been one or two casual phrases used, quotations from evidence, and so forth, not very complimentary to individuals. But there has been no attack upon individuals, and when the right hon. Gentleman the paragon Secretary for India refuses to give the name or names of those to whom he attributes a certain course of conduct, he implies that to mention their names would be necessarily to condemn them. The right hon. Gentleman has no title to shelter himself behind them and not tell the House of Commons who it is that he is sheltered behind. It comes to a pretty pass, and is not likely to enhance the efficiency or the usefulness of this Assembly, if those in power at any time they are likely to be condemned or denounced are themselves to issue a Royal Commission if the Royal Commission is in itself to stop any attacks upon them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: You asked for it.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I never heard of such a plea being put forward before. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India began the debate by a very highly pitched and angry assault upon Sir William Butler. His great object appeared to be to vindicate himself against Sir William Butler's imputations. He conducted a sort of duel with Sir William Butler; but in Sir William Butler's absence, and when I reminded him by way of assuaging his wrath for a moment, that, after all, Sir William Butler's Committee had been appointed by himself, his retort upon me was, "Oh, the right hon. Gentleman thinks it is the business of a Minister to dictate to a Committee." No, Sir; I never said that, and no one would think that any such opinion would be expressed by anyone who had any knowledge of the subject whatever. But what I do say is that when a Departmental Committee is appointed, it is the business of the head of that Department, or some one acting on his behalf, to watch the proceedings of the Committee, to consider the evidence taken before it [MINISTERIAL cries of "No!"]—certainly, not with a view to interfering in any way beyond seeing whether it is necessary for the Department to offer witnesses. That is not interfering with or dictating to a Committee at all, but it is not the usual practice, or a becoming course, for a Minister to start a Departmental Committee, to launch it, and to let it take its own course without securing that the interests which he represents are properly placed before the Committee. And, therefore, when the right hon. Gentleman makes a great complaint that this Committee of his own appointment——

*MR. BRODRICK: I did not appoint it.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Or of his right hon. friend's appointment, did not call for him as a witness and did not obtain his explanations, I say it was not the part of the Committee to take that course and that it ought to have been suggested by the Department itself. What seems to me is that the Government do not appear to apprehend the general bearing of the case and the impression on the public mind which has been created by it. That impression goes far beyond those smaller matters with which we have been dealing. The impression is that they lost hold of the business altogether. It was not the loss of the money; it was not the disclosures of incapacity, of failures or faults on the part of officers; it was not the eccentricities or the clevernesses of contractors that weighed upon the public mind, but the fact that the Government allowed these events to occur. And if I speak of the Government allowing them, it was especially strange of this Government, because let me remind the House, what we ought never to forget, that this Government's majority was created on the very ground that they were the only men in this country—so they told us—who could be trusted with the administration of the Army. The election was a military election. They were appointed to wind up the war, to reform the War Office, and to reconstitute the Army, and five years later the state of things which we are dealing with to-day is disclosed. But more than that. There has been a succession of one fugitive Minister after another and one fugitive scheme after another, the Ministers disagreeing in opinion and the schemes none of them accepted or carried out. While this evanescent process has been going on one salient fact has been established, and that is that the responsibility of the Cabinet, and especially of the Prime Minister, in these matters has been increased to a degree greater than ever existed before, and that gives intensity to the astonishment that, in the face of all these facts, this state of things has been found to exist. The War Office has been reorganised—on what principle? On the principle of securing such a responsibility as shall, first of all, produce efficiency and also enable us to say at once, where anything goes wrong, on whom the blame is to rest. But that is the very thing we find does not exist under the present system. If your machinery was effective, what occasion could arise for such a Committee as the Butler Committee? The country, therefore, was not only shocked by loss, but still more by the standard of responsibility exhibited by the Government.

I will not refer to the strange desire the Government appear to have shown, whether they felt it or not, to evade or postpone inquiry. The right hon. Gentleman gets up and declares to the House that he hardly lives for any other purpose than to have this matter probed to the bottom, but we found him day after day opposing to the very end the proposition to make the inquiry effective.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think a Royal Commission has ever been appointed so quickly.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: None may have been appointed so quickly, but even this might have been appointed more quickly still [MINISTERIAL cries of "No!"] if the right hon. Gentleman had proposed on the first day what he was literally driven to accept on the last day. Even then, when an hon. Member here spoke of a Statutory Commission, the right hon. Gentleman started up and said, "Only on condition of the Bill being treated as unopposed." That showed how little importance he attached to the whole matter, for he actually thinks the spending of an hour or two in the House of Commons in discussing some point of the Bill, is a matter that might very well put the whole thing into abeyance.

The War Office should better have appreciated the fact of this enormous agglomeration of stores in South Africa. The right hon. Gentleman has given, I believe, not an over-drawn picture of that quantity of stores, and he was right; but that was the very reason why the Department should have taken especial pains in this matter—precautions that would not be required in any ordinary emergency. In time of war you take the readiest means, whatever they may be. When three years ago we brought forward our Motion for a Committee of inquiry into contracts in South Africa, which has been referred to several times to-night, at that time it was possible mistakes were made, and great scandals even might have been allowed; but all of that was governed by the fact that in war you must take the weapons and instruments that come to your hand. You cannot allow any impediment, you may have to break financial rules. But when the war was over the urgency ceased; and for this process which ended in the system of sales and purchases there were six full months allowed. In my opinion the War Office should have insisted on full information being sent home, not only of the general scheme which was proposed, but of the details of the scheme, so that everything might be considered here at home, where there was the fullest information and the largest experience with regard to contracts in all parts of the world. When the right hon. Gentleman reminded us as he did that there were quantities of stores arriving in South Africa under contract for some time after the war had ended, let me point out that at home there were officials possessing the requisite knowledge to divert a large portion of those stores to other stations in other quarters, where they might be wanted for the public service. No attempt appears to have been made to do so.

Then, in the second place, there was the failure to realise that this was a matter that must be watched closely as time went on. Then I come to the point which the right hon. Gentleman has dealt with so unsatisfactorily, the question of what was the reason why these monthly returns suddenly ceased, returns which would have prevented the evil arriving at the scale at which it did arrive. The Prime Minister blames the obsolete system of the War Office, and he says they have provided against that, and that under their new system any such thing will be impossible. But is that so? The machinery was switched off for this purpose, but the effective grip you must keep over these things is not the mere grip of audit, which comes after the play, it is the grip of immediate guidance and control at the time. Decentralisation in this instance has been carried surely to the pitch of folly. There is no central department under your new system at the War Office capable of dealing on a large scale with great undertakings and emergencies such as that. The Department of Director-General of Contracts has been abolished altogether, and the financial advisers are scattered under various authorities. I am no advocate of over-centralisation, from which we have suffered in the past. But I do think, when we find the central authority denuded of these powers, that we can only expect that on future occasions the South African experience will be repeated—that evils which have occurred in this instance in South Africa may recur, under this system, all over the British Empire. Such a system exposes us to the maximum of corruption and plunder and the minimum of safety is secured. But decentralisation does not relieve the Minister of his responsibility. He is responsible, however much he sends his officials to check and control matters away from headquarters. It is the absolute duty of those at the centre to provide such checks and control as will be a safeguard against abuse and waste.

But we are told that this is a Party Motion. The Prime Minister talks of it as a piece of bitter partisanship. There is no trace of partisanship about it. There never has been a great period in the history of this country when there has been less inconsiderate partisanship than in connection with the South African War. If you mean merely that the Motion will be decided by a Party vote I agree. It will be a Party vote. We are accustomed to the practice. What a senseless thing, then, to meet the charges which we bring against the Government, invariably by the crack of the Party whip. We are taunted with bringing forward weekly votes of censure. There will be votes of censure, I hope, so long as the Government commit mistakes and so long as they appear to prevent the light of day falling either upon their own transactions or those of their subordinates. The only direct Party move in the matter which I have noticed was taken by the Prime Minister himself. Twice last week he brought in the name of Mr. Gladstone, and with the old, stupid argument of *tu quoque* referred to the fact, which had nothing to do with this question, of bad swords in the Egyptian War. I think Mr. Gladstone is a man who ought to be spoken of with respect by the Prime Minister, for Mr. Gladstone is a man the latchets of whose shoes, in these matters of finance and thrifty administration, he is not worthy to loose, a man who called into existence by the Exchequer and Audit Act the machinery by which the control of Parliament over expenditure is maintained, and who devoted his life to exalting instead of debasing the power of this House. But if you will take a Party view of this matter, then let us put aside this obsolete and used-up House of Commons. Let us go to the country. While we are here, powerless in the lobbies as we are [MINISTERIAL cheers]—by the help of gentlemen who now cheer and who have, no doubt, been brought up from pleasant occupations to take part in the division—while we are here, I say, we shall maintain the high constitutional function of Parliament to discuss matters and try to preserve, if possible, the credit and interest of the nation.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): A few years ago we were told that there was what was called a corrupt oligarchy in power in the Transvaal. Now the British Empire has heaped £250,000,000 on the public debt, it has shed blood like water, and it has deposed the corrupt oligarchy. It has replaced that oligarchy by the splendid, fine, free, and enlightened power of Lord Milner's rule at Pretoria. What is the result? It is now admitted that the wretched British taxpayer who approved of the war, and the still more wretched Irish taxpayer who opposed the war all along the line, has been swindled out of anything from £5,000,000 to £7,000,000. That is a triumph of British civilisation. To my mind the identity of the swindlers is really a very small matter. The real thing that this House has to deal with is the responsibility of Ministers of the Crown for the last three years, for by trying to prevent Members of this House from getting the information to which they are entitled, they have facilitated the operations of the swindlers in every possible way in their power. I remember one occasion on which a store scandal was under discussion and an influential Member of the Opposition put a Question to the then Secretary of State for War, the present Secretary of State for India. The Question was whether one of the partners in one of the incriminated firms was or was not a man who was a fugitive from justice in South Africa, a man who had been on his trial for illicit diamond dealing, who had come to London, who had left his bail to be estreated, and who had had his personal description published in the London police "Hue and Cry." The answer of the then Secretary of State for War was, "I have no information." I marvelled at the time that hon. Members on this side of the House could bow so quietly to the insolence displayed by the Answer to such a circumstantial Question. There are many forms of bad government, but I have no hesitation in saying that the worst of all bad governments is an oligarchy masquerading in the clothes of the Constitution, and that is what we are fast coming to in this House. We might as well save ourselves and everybody else a deal of trouble by passing a Resolution, when we thank His Majesty for his gracious Speech, appointing the members of the Government a permanent Executive until our meeting on the next occasion. What we have to complain of is that Ministers in this House have a system of refusing to answer Questions put on the Notice Paper. When Questions are put in relation to details of matters of fact they put every obstacle in the way of our getting information.

There is another matter to which I would draw the attention of the House. You have got at this moment as a bid for cheap popularity an Aliens Bill. It is a Bill intended for the exclusion of poor aliens from this country. Now the slime of the alien is over the whole of these South African War transactions. Are there no English or Irish contractors? The closer you look into it, you will find that German Jews are involved in the South African War scandals everywhere. Irish and English contractors have to take a back seat. I think we want a Bill for the exclusion of alien contractors from British Army war contracts.

I regret that no note of protest has been raised in the course of the discussion on another question. A Member of Parliament cannot open his mouth in criticism of anything done by a military officer without being accused of attacking the Army. There are a certain number of Members on the opposite side of the House who have it in their mind to remove from this House any civilian criticism or control over the Army for which this House pays. All I would say is that this House has an absolute right of criticism in these matters. When incompetence is pleaded, and when I am told that this or that officer was not dishonest, but that he was only deceived or imposed upon, I reply that incompetency paves the way for the thief. It is incompetence that leaves the road open to corruption. Why is it that a householder who carelessly leaves his door open at night is liable to be summoned by the police for his neglect? It is because by his negligence he is the burglar's best friend, and because in addition to that he places temptation in the way of a man who never was a thief before. On the same principle a man who holds a great official position, and who by lack of supervision or by neglect of duty opens the way for corruption and the swindling of the taxpayers of the country, however much he may be acquitted of personal dishonesty, is a man who ought to be dismissed from the position he holds. On these grounds I shall vote for the Resolution of censure which has been moved. If these scandals had occurred under the late corrupt Boer oligarchy, in the United States, or in France, we should have had endless reams of newspaper sermonettes on the subject. I think this matter shows that this House is losing control over public administration and expenditure, and that if the House does not look after itself, and stand upon its rights, the day will be near at hand when constitutional Government will be a farce and the money of the taxpayer will be at the mercy of any alien jobber to squander with impunity.

MR. GUEST (Plymouth): I do not conceive the object of this debate to be to affix any particular blame on any individual whose name has been mentioned in connection with the scandals revealed, or partially revealed, by the investigations of the Butler Committee. I do not think it is the duty of, or, indeed, that it is advisable for, this House to attempt any such task. Indeed, the object of the vote of censure is not to attempt to censure those officers who have been animadverted on by the Butler Report, but to attach, as far as this House can attach, responsibility—and there is responsibility—upon the present Government. It seems to me that the paragraph which most intimately concerns the debate which is now proceeding is that which deals with the complete carelessness on the part of the War Office with regard to the instructions which they issued to the Army Sales Department in South Africa. We want to know how far the War Office has assisted, or is responsible, for the state of affairs with which we are confronted. We know that Lord Kitchener, previous to leaving South Africa, telegraphed to the War Office that the accumulated stores involved a sum of between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000. We want to know how it was that that considerable matter escaped the attention of the Secretary of State for War. One would have thought that, great as is the responsibility and extensive as are the duties of that official, a sum of £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 would have received the attention to which it was entitled. But in spite of the knowledge of the War Office, in spite of the knowledge of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India, in spite of the fact that the War Office had ordered a monthly return, which was not made, the War Office on 24th April, 1903, cancelled the return and took no further steps whatever. What the officers in the Army feel, and what the public feel, is that they have been put into a position where they had no right to be put, owing to the carelessness, not of some individual swindler, but owing to the carelessness and malfeasance of the War Office and the Secretary of State for War. We wish to attach responsibility to the Government for the things for which they are responsible, and to the War Office, which has passed through so many hands in so few years, with greater and increasing incapacity as it passed from one hand to another. We believe that there is fundamental weakness and wrong in the whole of the War Office administration. The hon. Member continued his speech amid interruptions and cries of "Divide" to which he replied—Go to the country and see how it is divided.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is obviously impossible that the debate should terminate to-night. Not merely have an immense number of new facts been brought before the House, but a remarkable speech has been made by the late Secretary of State for War, who stated that while he was in charge of the War Office information of vital importance to the public, which certainly should have been placed at his disposal, was withheld from him by some person or persons unknown, and concealed from the House of Commons, although the names are perfectly well known on the Treasury Bench. I say, therefore, that in these circumstances it is quite impossible that we should be asked to come to a decisive vote, and to terminate this debate to-night. I would ask permission to move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. A. J. **BALFOUR** rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 329; Noes, 256. (Division List No. 209.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (Southamp'n
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hn. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Rt. Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescu
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick S. W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)

Gordon, Maj.Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt, Hon. Thomas F
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Sir James(StaffordsNW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, John(Kent,Faversh'm
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Roland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt.Hn. Sir John H)
Kenyon, Hon.Geo. T.(Denbigh.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant(Yorks.NR
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareh'm
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Long, Rt.HnWalter (Bristol,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee

Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis(Edinburgh,W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn SirH.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Mildmay Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, DavidJ (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Peel, Hn.Wm.RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ratcliff, R.F.
Reid, James (Greenock
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt.Hn.Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter

Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, SirHarry S.(Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt.Hn.Col.Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H.(Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, H.C.(North'mbTyneside
Smith, RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, EdwardJas.(Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark,J.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. W.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirC.E.H(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G.E.(Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C.Vernon
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, N.E. (York, NR, Whitby
Buxton, Sydney Charles (Poplar
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John, A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings.
Edwards, Frank.
Ellice, Capt. EC (S Andrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell. James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Methyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kennedy, P.J. (Westmeath, N.)
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mitchell, Edw (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Muldoon, John
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt. Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)

Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.Hn.CR.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thomas, JA(Glamorgan,Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson(Leeds,S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, ArthurWalters(N.Dorset
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir JT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 255 ; Noes, 329. (Division List, No. 210.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton,N.E.(York,NR,Whitby
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M.Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice,Capt.E(SAndrew'sB'ghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
EvansSirFrancis H.(Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord (Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton Alfred E. (Morley)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremia
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath,N)
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo North)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)

Morley,RtHon.John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Muldoon, John
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan,Col.John P.(Galway N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie(Dumfries
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt Hon.CR(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan E.
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
ThomasJ.A.,Glamorgan,Gower
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Waldron, Lawrence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson(Leeds,S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, WR.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills,Arthur Walters(N Dorset
Wilson,Charles Henry(Hull,W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestershire,N.
Wood, James
Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Huddersfi'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,RtHn Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Bagot,Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHn.GeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. (Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon.Allen Benjamin
Beach,RtHnSirMichael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col.H.F(Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.Worc.
Chamberlayne T. (S'thampton
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy N.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,Rt.Hon.Sir John C.R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb, Shepherd (Bolton
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies,SirHoratio D.(Chatham
Dewar,Sir T.R.(TowerHamlets
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, RtHon.SirJoseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Dorington,RtHon.Sir John E.

Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke,Rt.Hon.Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,RtHnAilwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt.Hon. George H.
Finlay,Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, PhilipS.(Warwick.S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon.HnJ.E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon,J. (Londonderry,South
Gordon,Maj Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,Walford D.(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW(B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D.(Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq.of(L'donderry
Hardy,Lawrence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath,SirJames(StaffordsNW.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon- Hodge,Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard,JohnKent (Faversham
Hozier,Hon.James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain HerbertMerton
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H
Kenyon, Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph(Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson,JohnGrant(YorksN.R
Lee,Arthur,H.(Hants.Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick NS.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A.R.
Long, Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long.Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttleton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh, W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell,RtHn.SirH.E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner,Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Peel, Hn.Wm.RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie,Rt.Hon.ChasThomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,Rt.Hn.Col.Edw.J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, SirH. (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith,H.C.North'mb(Tyneside
Smith, RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Hon.Arthur Ormskirk
StanleyEdward Jas.(Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord(Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut. Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty

Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C.E.H. (Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A.C.E. (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H. (Yorks
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E.R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

PUBLIC ROADS (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Drafting Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"To insert after line 22 the words—

'(2) Expenses under this section may be recovered if not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds in the County Court, and if exceeding that sum in the High Court.

'(3) An appeal may be taken from any order of a County Court under this section, and the enactments in the County Courts (Ireland) Acts, 1851 to 1898, relating to appeals in the case of ordinary civil bills shall apply accordingly.]

'(4) Proceedings for the recovery of any expenses under this section shall be commenced within twelve months of the time at which the damage was done, or where the damage is in consequence of any particular building contract or work extending over a long period shall be commenced not later than six months after the completion of the contract or work.

'(5) In the case of a road not being a main road any expenses recovered or composition paid under this section by or to a county council in respect thereof shall be credited in manner prescribed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to the rural district or rural districts in which is situated that part of the road in respect of which the expenses were recovered or the composition was paid, and in the case of a main road one-half of such expenses or composition shall be so credited to the rural or urban district as the case may be.' "—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out Clause 2."—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"After Clause 1, to insert as a new clause, the words 'The proviso to Section 4 of The Locomotives Act, 1861, is hereby repealed so far as it applies to Ireland, and in lieu thereof it is enacted as follows: Provided that the regulation of weight herein mentioned shall not extend to any waggon carrying only one block, plate, cable, roll, vessel of stone or metal, or other single article being of greater weight than fourteen tons, but the fellies, tyres, or shoes of such wagon shall not be less than eight inches in breadth, and any damage arising from the user of any such waggon shall be deemed to be damage caused by excessive weight within the meaning of Section 1 of this Act.' "—(*Mr. Atkinson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

MR. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington), in moving the adjournment of the House, said this Bill would be the first order of the day on Tuesday.

Question, "That this House do now adjourn," put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 27th June, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Dublin United Tramways.

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by the South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

Read, and agreed to.

South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company Bill [H.L.]. Presented; read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners.

Corbett Estate Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Dublin United Tramways Bill. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Midland Railway Bill. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

North-Eastern Railway Bill. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Worcestershire County Council (Bridges) Bill; Bootle Corporation Bill; Caledonian Railway Bill. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Swansea Corporation Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Millport Piers and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Darien Gold Mining Company Bill [H.L.]; Leven's Patent Bill [H.L.]; Gamble's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Rhymney Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Morley Corporation Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Read 3^{a} (according to order); an Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill. House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^{a} on Thursday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Millport Piers and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill. Read 1^a; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2^a (*The Marquess of Linlithgow*), and reported from the Committee. (No. 110.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES, No 18 (1905).

Treaty between Great Britain and Sweden and Norway for the Marriage of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret of Great Britain and Ireland with His Royal Highness Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Norway; signed at Stockholm, 20th May, 1905.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

CRIMINAL CASES (RESERVATION OF POINTS OF LAW) BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment. The Report of the Amendments, made in Committee of the Whole House, to be received on Thursday next.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.].

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies to be delivered out except to members of the Committee, and such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order. (No. 109.)

FINANCE BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 27th June, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Formby Township Bill [Lords]; Littlehampton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Llandrindod Wells Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Matlock Bath Improvement Bill [Lords]; Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Acton District) Bill [Lords]; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords] (by Order). Third Reading deferred till Monday next.

Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]; Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill; Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

North East London Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Joint Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons on London Underground Railways in Session 1901, and the Report of the said Joint Committee, and the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee of this House on the City and North East Suburban Electric Railway Bill in Session 1903, be referred to the Select Committee on the North East London Railway Bill.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Housing of the Working Classes Acts Amendment Bill. Second Reading deferred from To-morrow till Wednesday, 12th July.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed

with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2 "That, in the case of the Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to.

Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [Lords]. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company Bill [Lords]. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

Mansfield Corporation Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Finance Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; London United Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill, without Amendment.

Highland Railway Bill, with an Amendment.

Great Northern Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Amendment to—Barry Railway Bill [Lords].

Amendments to — Municipal Corporations (Merthyr Tydfil Scheme Confirmation) Bill [Lords]; Clacton Improvement Bill [Lords]; Dearne Valley Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education, under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the London County Council to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under The Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bolsover Gas, Denbigh Water, Formby Gas, Hayling Water, and Staveley Gas." [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under The Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Dorking Water, Maidenhead Water, Tavistock Gas, Wey Valley Water, and Ystalyfera Gas." [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, and The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902, relating to Airdrie, Coatbridge, Cults and District." [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [Lords.]

Donovan's Divorce Bill [Lords]. That They communicate Minutes of Evidence and proceedings taken upon the Second Reading of Donovan's Divorce Bill, as desired by this House, with a request that the same may be returned.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 252.]

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time;

referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 253.]

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 254.]

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 255.]

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE).

Petition from Stornoway, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES (ASSESSMENT AND RATING) BILL.

Petition from Keighley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ISLE OF MAN.

Account presented, of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended March 31st, 1905, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 212.]

TREATY SERIES (No. 18, 1905).

Copy presented, of Treaty between Great Britain and Sweden and Norway, for the Marriage of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret of Great Britain and Ireland with His Royal Highness Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Norway. Signed at Stockholm, May 20th, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3422 to 3425 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Rifle-Shooting as part of Educational System.

SIR ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the opinion expressed by Field-Marshal Earl Roberts that training in rifle-shooting can be effectively given by the use of miniature ranges and that such training, if given universally, would add to the security of the nation, His Majesty's Government will consider whether such training can be provided through the medium of the Education Department.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I am very sensible of the great importance of the subject to which Lord Roberts has recently called public attention, but I do not think that to the Education Department can properly be assigned the responsibility for providing the training which is contemplated under Lord Roberts scheme.

New Transvaal Constitution—Opportunity for Discussion.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, and what, opportunity will be given to the House to discuss the provisions of the new Transvaal Constitution.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I presume that the Colonial Office Vote will be the suitable occasion for the discussion which the hon. Member desires. I cannot at present fix a date, but adequate notice will be given before the Vote is taken.

Churches (Scotland) Bill.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, in view of the numerous cases of interdict and eviction which are daily taking place in connection with the United Free Church of Scotland, he will now name an early day to take the Second Reading of the Churches (Scotland) Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) This Question was answered to-day by my right hon. friend the Lord-Advocate, as my hon. friend will have noticed.

Bovine Tuberculosis Commission Report—Tuberculosis Compensation Bill.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state when the Report of the Bovine Tuberculosis Commission will be issued; whether his attention has been called to the statement of Dr. Koch respecting the interim Report, as to the absence of evidence to prove that man can be infected by animal tuberculosis in any but the very slightest degree; and whether, in view of this pronouncement, the Government will support the Tuberculosis Compensation Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) As I stated in my reply to the hon. Member for the Eastern Division of Northamptonshire on the 9th ultimo†, I understand that the Royal Commission hope to issue a further interim Report towards the end of the present year, but that it is not possible to say at present when the final Report will be issued. My attention has been drawn to the statement of Dr. Koch referred to. I sympathise with the object of the Bill mentioned in the last part of the Question, but I am afraid I cannot give any promise with regard to it.

Telephonic Facilities in Northamptonshire.

Colonel STOPFORD SACKVILLE (Northamptonshire, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether any extension of the telephone system is now being carried on by the Post Office within the county of Northampton; and can he say when the towns of Oundle and Thrapston may expect to be provided with telephonic facilities.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Exchanges have been opened during the present year at Daventry and Brackley, in the county of Northampton, and an exchange is in course of construction at Towcester. Estimates are in preparation for exchanges at Oundle and Thrapston, and the establishment of exchanges at these towns will depend upon the amount of support which is forthcoming. Inquiry is being made to ascertain the number of subscribers who are willing to rent exchange lines, and a decision will be arrived at as soon as possible.

Pay of Post Office Adult Night Messengers.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether the new wages scheme which came into force last April applies to adult night messengers employed on full time duty in offices where the minimum of the established postmen has been raised; and, if so, can he say from what date it will take effect.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Under the scheme to which the hon. Member refers the pay of unestablished night telegraph messengers employed full time in provincial towns has been raised to the minimum of the established postmen of the town as from April 1st last.

Pay of Unestablished Postmen.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether unestablished postmen, in places where there are no established postmen with whom to compare them, will be granted increase of pay under his Memorandum of March 24th last.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) In cases such as those to which the hon. Member refers the pay of the unestablished full-duty postmen is being adjusted within the limits of the scale which would be proper to established postmen at the offices concerned.

Pay of Rural Postmen at Carlisle.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General why the rural postmen at Carlisle have not been placed on the town-postmen maximum of 26s. a week, as announced in his Memorandum of March last.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The question is under consideration, and a decision will be communicated to the postmen concerned in due course.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlv., 1342.

Increase in Vivisection Experiments.

Mr. CUMMING MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware of the increase in the number of experiments of vivisectors upon animals this year over last year, the numbers being 32,562 in 1905, as against 19,084 in 1904, being a total increase of 13,478; whether, in view of this increase, he will take steps to reduce this number.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I am of course aware of the increase pointed out by the hon. Member. The particulars on pages 4 and 5 of the Annual Return show that this increase is almost wholly in the experiments included in Table IV. (B), *i.e.*, experiments of the nature of simple inoculations or hypodermic injections, and a very large proportion of those experiments were performed on behalf of official bodies. The progressive rise in the total number of experiments in recent years has been due almost entirely to the constantly increasing importance attached by the public and public authorities to experiments upon animals as a means of obtaining the knowledge required for the diagnosis of disease or for the prevention of disease in men and animals. It is not for me to take any action in the direction suggested. My duties under the statute are confined to seeing that the proposed experiments are conducted in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

Harbour Authorities and Inflammable Oils.

Mr. GRENFELL (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the Petroleum Acts only empower harbour authorities to make by-laws regulating the import trade in the highly inflammable oils such as benzine, naphtha, motor spirit, etc., to which the Acts apply; and that, although equal risks are attendant upon such oils when taken out of or in transit within the port, no regulations or precautions can be enforced for preventing vessels engaged in these operations from becoming a danger to the shipping and property in the harbour they are using; and whether there is any prospect of a Bill being brought in to deal with this important matter at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I have had under my consideration the question of extending the power of harbour authorities to make by-laws under Section 4 of the Petroleum Act, 1871, but I fear that there would be no opportunity for legislation this session. The matter shall not, however, be lost sight of.

Education—Money Prizes.

Mr. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether a local education authority may award to the scholars attending the schools under that authority prizes in money out of the school income, or whether the giving of such prizes would imperil the Parliamentary grant.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The giving of prizes in money by the local authority would not imperil the grant. As to whether such expenditure is permissible, is a question for the district auditor, whose decision is subject to revision by the Local Government Board.

Traffic Regulations in Phœnix Park, Dublin.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a regulation exists preventing vans or carts passing through Phœnix Park; and whether, in view of the inconvenience of this regulation to traders and others, he will arrange to allow the roads in Phœnix Park to be utilised by traders and farmers.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The regulation exists, as stated in the hon. Member's Question, the object being to prevent the use of the park roads as thoroughfares. Exceptions are made in certain classes of cases where the rule would produce hardship. The differences in the distances by the park roads and by the county roads are, in most instances, very slight.

Erection of Irish College of Science —Irish Materials.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will arrange that the materials to be used in the erection of the College of Science shall be Irish; whether he is aware that a greater portion of the material used in the Albert Agricultural College was imported; and whether he will see that Irish materials shall be used and Irish workmen and Irish architects be employed on public works in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) As I have stated on several previous occasions, I do not consider it feasible to restrict contractors in the choice of their workmen or materials; but I have no doubt that, where practicable, preference will be given to Ireland. As regards the Albert Agricultural College I am informed that it would be incorrect to say that the greater portion of the building materials used were imported.

Irish Schools—Bilingual Education Scheme.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will supply a Return of the districts or schools in county Kerry where the Board of National Education would be prepared to sanction the introduction of the bilingual education scheme, a programme for which has been lately issued by the Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners cannot undertake to furnish such a Return. Applications for sanction of the bilingual programme from managers of national schools will be acceded to in all cases which the Commissioners deem suitable.

Fighting in Southern Nigeria.

Mr. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any information as to recent severe fighting in Southern Nigeria; if he can say what was the force employed; what was the object of the expedition; and how many casualties occurred.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I presume that the Question has reference to a communication from Reuter's agent in Liverpool which was published in the newspapers on the 19th of June. I am awaiting a report on the subject from the High Commissioner of Southern Nigeria.

Rejection of Bread at Ballykinlar Camp —Names of Contractors.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he can state the names of the contractors whose bread was rejected on three occasions at Ballykinlar camp, county Down; the prices quoted on the tender accepted; the penalties incurred by the contractor; and the penalties exacted from him.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The bread was only rejected in one case, not three. The firm concerned is the Bloomfield Bakery Company. The prices are confidential, and cannot be stated. The penalty enforced on the contractor was that the firm had to replace the bread rejected.

South African War Stores Contracts

Sir JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, seeing that British mercantile firms of standing in South Africa did not receive orders for supplies to the military after the middle of 1900, but that they were given to foreign middlemen, the Royal Commission now to be appointed will be empowered to inquire why goods were regularly purchased by our military buyers at higher prices than they were offered at or could have been obtained from British colonial merchants.

(*Answered by Mr. A J. Balfour.*) It appears to me that the terms of reference to the Royal Commission were wide enough to cover substantially the hon. Member's Question; but, of course, this is a matter to be determined by the Commissioners.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said he wished to invite the attention of Mr. Speaker to a Question on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for the New Forest Division of Hampshire, and to ask whether it was in order, seeing that it claimed the right of Members of this House and the House of Peers to motor through Hyde Park during prohibited hours on the grounds of the privilege of having free ingress and egress to the House of Commons, and invited a Minister of the Crown to express an opinion thereon. He submitted that Mr. Speaker was the sole exponent of the privileges of the House, that it was his high privilege to be their mouthpiece, and that it was not competent for any Member to deal with a matter of this sort. Moreover the same question was raised in the House in July last year, and the then Speaker decided that it was not a question of privilege but of police regulation.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is obvious that in any Answer that may be given by the hon. Member for Chorley, he has no right or title to settle what are or are not matters of privilege. I think the Question is simply intended to call attention to the fact that there is a claim of privilege, and that if such claim exists the new regulations ought not to have been made. But I am obliged to the hon. Member for his very careful editing of the Question, and I hope he will give me his assistance on future occasions.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

South African War Stores Inquiry—Sir Neville Lyttelton's Position.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what steps, if any, did Sir Neville Lyttelton take to inquire into the irregularities in the transactions of the sales and refunds to contractors, to which the attention of the headquarters staff at Pretoria had been called by the officer commanding the Bloemfontein District in March, 1903, and which had been in operation since the middle of 1902; what report, if any, did Sir Neville Lyttelton make to the War Office at home in reference to these irregularities; and whether the communications, if any, between Sir Neville Lyttelton and the War Office with respect to the sales and refunds to contractors will be presented to the House.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War what explanation, if any, have the War Office authorities to give for the fact that the orders of the War Office given by cablegram that reports be sent each month by cablegram to the War Office showing receipts on account of stores, supplies, remounts, etc., sold by the Army in South Africa to civilian authorities or to private buyers, were ignored, and that these returns were never furnished; and what action, if any, did the War Office authorities take in view of this neglect on the part of the office of the Director of Supplies to obey these orders from the centre of authority in military affairs at home.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): These points fall within the scope of the inquiry to be held by the Royal Commission, which will be empowered to call for all Papers necessary. I am not, therefore, in a position to reply to the hon. Member.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said the House was entitled to the information required in his specific Questions.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said it would be given to the judicial tribunal.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said the right hon. Gentleman was asked what communications had passed. These things were within his knowledge, and information should not be refused.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman has asked his Questions and received his reply.

Mr. Meyer.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War to what nationality did Meyer, described in the Butler Sales and Refunds to Contractors

Report as a favoured contractor in relation both to his supply to us and his purchases from us, originally belong, and when was he naturalised; whether he has inquired, or intends to inquire, the grounds on which Meyer became a favoured contractor, and whether there is any, and, if so, what, connection between him and a person referred to in the Report as some shadowy personality occasionally showing in the background of these transactions; and what steps, if any, does he intend to take for the probing to the bottom of transactions of which the Butler Committee say in their Report they have only been able to touch the fringe.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have no information to enable me to reply to the first part of the Question. The other matters alluded to in the Question will fall within the field of the inquiry to be held by the Royal Commission.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: The right hon. Gentleman takes refuge in the Commission inquiry like a naughty child.

Military Stores Scandal—Destruction of Documents.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Attorney-General has been consulted with reference to the putting of the Public Prosecutor in motion with reference to the taking of proceedings against persons to whom may be traced the destruction of documents in connection with the sales and refunds to contractors in South Africa, to which reference has been made in the Report of the Butler Committee; and what steps, if any, do the War Office authorities propose to take with a view of bringing to justice the destroyers of these documents.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The reply to the first part of the Question is in the negative. The reply to the second part of the Question cannot be given until the Royal Commission has reported.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Why cannot all these documents be laid before the Attorney-General, as in the Whitaker Wright case?

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax): Does the inquiry prevent the documents being laid before the Attorney-General before the Commission reports?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No; the whole of these documents and the Report of the Committee have been laid before the Public Prosecutor, but there is no evidence to justify prosecution.

Mr WHITLEY: Apart from the action of the Public Prosecutor, does the right hon. Gentleman say there has not been any destruction of documents?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, I do not say anything of the kind. I do not know; inquiry will reveal whether there has been or not.

War Office Delays.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War why did the War Office neglect to take any steps until January, 1905, to inquire into the irregularities in the sales and refunds to contractors in South Africa on which the Auditor-General first reported in February, 1904; and whether the War Office authorities have any, and, if so, what, explanation to make of a delay which has facilitated attempts by the destruction of documents to conceal the character of these transactions, or the persons who participated in them.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Comptroller and Auditor-General's Report of February, 1904, dealt with points different from the irregularities to which the hon. Member refers. The paragraphs apparently alluded to are—Paragraph 82, which deals with loss on sales to the Repatriation Department—a matter totally separate from sales and refunds to contractors. Paragraph 83—Sales by Military Sales Department—which have not been alleged to have been irregular. Paragraph 84—Sales below the minimum rate at which tenders had been invited. Sales of perishable supplies had to be made, and it is no more open to the Army than to any other seller to fix what the buyer shall pay. The fact that low prices had been accepted by the local military authorities would not imply the existence of any scandal.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in the paragraphs quoted the Auditor-General quotes from the Report of General Lyttelton on these very transactions? Does he propose to lay that Report on the Table?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir. I propose to submit all these Papers and other documents relating to them to the Royal Commission.

Losses on War Stores in South Africa.

Mr. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if his attention has been called to a statement in the Press to the effect that six or seven millions of money was lost upon the sales of stores referred to by Lord Kitchener as being in his possession at the end of the war, and whether the statement is true.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield): My attention has been drawn to the statement, which is undeniably inaccurate. If the hon. Member wishes me to state a few of the leading facts already mentioned I will repeat them. Lord Kitchener estimated that the stores in his possession at the end of the war, if all sold, might realise seven millions of money. Whether that estimate was correct or not I need not now discuss, but there is evidence to show that it was based upon anticipation of prices which were not in fact realised. I can give to the House four figures, which have been already quoted, and which show the absurdity of the suggestion that £7,000,000 have been lost. We have received from the Repatriation Committee for stores sold to them £2,680,000, all stores referred to by Lord Kitchener. We have received further £2,000,000 for horses and other animals, and £718,000, as stated by my right hon. friend last night, in respect of those transactions which were under discussion yesterday. We also, out of those stores, fed for six months 140,000 persons in the concentration camps. The total value of those stores so supplied to the camps cannot possibly have been less than £1,000,000. If those figures are added together, it will be found that upon the stores remaining at the end of the war we realised £6,400,000. I wish to add that I do not at all admit that the remaining £600,000 is to be regarded as loss—because, as I have already stated, the estimate of Lord Kitchener was based, as can be shown, on prices which could not be realised.

Mr. LIEF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): Is there any significance in the use of the word "surplus" by Lord Kitchener.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The intention was to sell everything, and the valuation Lord Kitchener put upon his stores was in respect of all stores he then had in South Africa.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: Can the House have a statement showing the actual remaining stores to which these calculations had reference, and the amounts received for each category, and the times of sale.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I am not prepared to answer at this moment. I have been asked to state, and have stated, the actual money received. The statement that there has been a loss of £7,000,000 is absolutely without foundation.

Mr. LIEF JONES: Is it to be understood that Lord Kitchener did not contemplate reserving any stores?

Mr. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): Is it a fact that a profit was made on the transactions, and will it appear in the accounts as an appropriation in aid?

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): Shall we realise a dividend on the war?

Mr. WHITLEY: Is it not the case that supplies were pouring into South Africa all this time?

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: It is true, and that has been taken into account. On the other hand, it must be remembered that during six months we took out of the stores six months perishable and nine months imperishable supplies. It is perfectly fair, though these are rough estimates, to set one against the other.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Will the figures appear in the Appropriation Accounts?

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): Will these figures be laid before the Commission?

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: No doubt they will be available should the Commissioners wish to have them.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Of course they will.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Shall I be justified in putting down the Questions to the Financial Secretary which his master, the Secretary for War, has refused to answer? He certainly is the more communicative.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): As this experiment has been so successful, will the Financial Secretary to the War Office ask the hon. Member for South-West Manchester to give notice of another "cut and dried" Question?

[No Answer was returned.]

Volunteer Organisation.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the declaration of the President of the Imperial Defence Committee that, although in 1899 there were numbers of Volunteers in the country, they were not organised from the point of view of a field army, and there was not any machinery for organising them, no headquarters staff, and no sufficient arrangement for instantaneously using them as a field army; and if he can inform the House what steps, if any, the War Office has taken during the last six years to remedy such a condition of affairs.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: In reply to the Question put yesterday † by my hon. and gallant friend on the subject of the organisation of the Volunteers as a field force I gave a full Answer explaining the measures which were now being taken. This Answer covers a reply to the present Question.

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): Is it not a fact that for the last two years charges have been borne on the Estimates for Army Service Corps for the Volunteers which have never been put into operation?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There has been an important departure in the direction of the organisation of Army Corps for the Volunteer force, and I hope the experiment will be extended.

Deficiency of Volunteer Officers.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what was the deficiency of officers in the Volunteer force on May 31st, 1905; and how the strength of the force shown by the last Quarterly Return compares with the corresponding date in 1900.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The total deficiency of combatant officers amounted to 2,770, including 197 seconded. The strength of the force, for all ranks, on April 1st was 248,591. The figures for the corresponding month in 1900 cannot be given, but the figures for October 1st, 1900—the year of the war—were 282,732.

Reserve of Army Officers.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the total establishment of the reserve of officers, and if it provides, as in the United States, for filling vacancies in the Regular Army on mobilisation, and also for the officering of irregular corps in the event of war; and how many officers are now in the reserve and available in the event of active service.

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† See page 89.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There is no fixed establishment of the reserve of officers. The reserve is intended to provide for the purposes stated in the Question so far as numbers will permit, but the composition and organisation of the reserve is at present under consideration. The number of officers on the strength amounts to 2,388, exclusive of 396 who are in various kinds of military, colonial, and other employment. Of the former number at least 20 per cent. must be deducted for medical unfitness as regards availability for active service. I consider the question of increasing the reserve of officers one of the most important of these which now engage the attention of the Army Council.

Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company.

MR. LEIF JONES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Government of Newfoundland paid in 1901 the sum of 850,000 dollars to recover from Mr. R. G. Reid certain lands which had been granted to him by Act of Legislature; and that the same Government is now proposing to grant to the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited, a perpetually renewable lease of a far larger area of land comprising the whole watershed of the Exploits River; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

The following Questions also appeared on the Paper on the same subject—

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that The Newfoundland Crown Lands Act, 1903, demands a payment of five dollars per square mile for the first year and of three dollars per square mile thereafter for all the lands granted under a ninety-nine years pulp limit lease, and that the perpetually renewable lease now proposed to be granted to the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited, provides for the payment of two dollars per square mile only and expressly exempts the lessees from any payment whatever for swamp and barren lands, he proposes to take any, and, if any, what, action in the matter.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, under the Bill lately passed by the Newfoundland Legislature to confirm a contract made with the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited, for the purpose of utilising the timber resources of the colony in the establishment of pulp and paper industries, the lessees are granted full mineral and quarry rights over an area estimated at 2,100,000 acres, such rights not being necessary for the stated purposes of the contract, and being subject only to a nominal charge of 5 per cent. on the net profits of the sale of precious and other metals, minerals, and mineral substances; and that the lessees are free from the provisions of the existing law as to the verification and proof of accounts by holders of mineral licences; and whether, seeing that the terms of the lease are contrary in these and other respects to the express provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1903 now in force in the colony, he will state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington): I can only refer the hon. Members to the Answer which I gave on the 22nd June † to other Questions on the subject of this contract.

MR. WHITLEY: When does the right hon. Gentleman expect to receive a copy of the final agreement, and will he allow Members of the House to see it?

MR. LYTTELTON: I should like to have notice of that Question.

MR. WHITLEY: Is it expected this week?

MR. LYTTELTON: I cannot say.

Mr. Van Rensburg, of the South African Inter-Colonial Council.

MR. WHITLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that at the first meeting, in Heidelberg, of creditors in the insolvent estate of Mr. Van Rensburg, who recently resigned his seat as a nominated member of the Inter-Colonial Council, debts to the amount of £51,000 were proved, and included in the list was a sum of £20,000 due to the Colonial Treasurer of the Transvaal; and can he say for what purpose this loan was made.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlvii., 1350.

MR. LYTTELTON: I have no official information as yet on the subject referred to.

MR. WHITLEY: Is this the man whose telegram that the Boers were not opposed to Chinese labour was read out to this House?

MR SWIFT MACNEILL: How long has he been naturalised?

[No Answers were returned.]

Cost of Transvaal Governor's and Lieutenant-Governor's Establishments.

MR. WHITLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the fact that, according to the Treasury accounts of the Transvaal Government for the year ending 30th June, 1904, the expenses of the establishments of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor amounted to a sum of £63,860, in addition to £30,000 set aside for buying a house for the Governor and £40,000 for the building of a house for the Lieutenant-Governor, and that these expenses included such items as £1,535 8s. 8d. for a dance given at the Wanderers Hall, Johannesburg; and whether, having regard to the fact that the establishment of the late President Kruger only involved an annual cost of £7,700, he will call for greater economy in the Transvaal administration until the obligation of the £30,000,000 war contribution has been discharged.

MR. LYTTELTON: I must remind the hon. Member that His Majesty's Government has elected to treat the new colonies as self-governing colonies in all matters in which Imperial interests are not directly concerned. The items of expenditure referred to clearly fall within the scope of this principle, and the Appropriation Ordinances which provide for them have been duly passed by the local Legislature. I may add that I am unable to follow all the hon. Member's figures, and the comparison which he makes requires considerable qualification, because the expenses of the Governor's establishment (part of which is borne by Orange River Colony funds) and of the Lieutenant-Governor's, cover some items like clerical assistance and cables which appear separately in the Estimates of the South African Republic. In the case of the Governor's house the sum set aside for its purchase would remove a charge of £1,900 per annum for rent. I feel sure that Lord Selborne may be relied upon to practise all reasonable economy in these matters, and I may say that considerable retrenchments have been made by the Administration within the last year. It must be remembered in dealing with the expenditure referred to that the cost of land, building, and living, which enormously increased during and after the war, still remains very high.

MR. WHITLEY: My figures are from the official Return. Does the right hon. Gentleman consider that the decision of the Government to treat the colony as self-governing takes away from the power of his office to consider its finances until the £30,000,000 loan has been paid?

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Is there any precedent in our colonial administration for treating a colony which is in fact a Crown colony as a self-governing colony, and for abrogating the right and duty of restraining expenditure?

MR. BUCHANAN: May I also ask whether, under the new Constitution to be given to the Transvaal, the new Transvaal Legislature will have the power of reducing the Governor's salary or his establishment expenses?

MR. LYTTELTON: No; the Governor's salary is reserved under the new Constitution. I do not like to reply off-hand to the right hon. Gentleman's Question, which should be put down. The power referred to by the hon. Gentleman the Member for Halifax was not taken away, but that power must be exercised with the greatest discretion.

MR. WHITLEY: Then my Question stands: Will the Government exercise that power as against this extravagance until the loan has been paid?

MR. LYTTELTON: I have answered that.

MR. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Owestry): Is it really the fact that the establishments of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal are now more expensive than Mr. Kruger's establishment?

MR. LYTTELTON: No doubt; but the establishments to which I have referred, as I have explained, include numerous items which were not included in the establishment of the late President Kruger.

Disturbances at the Angelo and New Comet Mines.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will give particulars of the disturbances which took place on May 14th and 15th amongst the employees of the Angelo and New Comet Mines; what were the causes which produced the disturbances; and whether, seeing that five Chinese, four Kaffirs, and one India coolie were killed, what steps he proposes to take to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

MR. LYTTELTON: I have not yet received an official account of these disturbances, but I have asked for a report.

Crœsus Gold Mine, Langlaate—Cruelty to a Native.

MR. LEIF JONES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to a case tried before Mr. Van den Berg, at "A" Court, Johannesburg, on May 17th, 1905, in which an overseer at the Crœsus Gold Mine, Langlaate, was fined £20 for cruelty to a native, and in which the indictment alleged that, on 8th May, the accused assaulted one of his native employees, named Jim Simali, by handcuffing him to an iron staple attached to a wooden plank made fast to the floor, keeping him in that position for four days without food or drink; whether he will take steps to have the man convicted of this crime removed from his post as overseer; and whether he will devise some greater safeguards than at present exist to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in future.

MR. LYTTELTON: I am asking the Governor for a report on this case and for his observations as to the steps which the Government may be able to take not merely to punish such offences but to prevent their occurrence. In the newspaper account of the trial which I have seen the accused is referred to as "a contractor" and not as "an overseer" and the magistrate found as a fact that the native had not been kept without food and drink.

Indian Military Charges.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, seeing that in 1901 the military charge for India was a little over £15,000,000, it having increased since then to over £20,500,000, the Government of India have signified their approval of this further increase of £2,440,000 per year in the military expenditure of India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): In 1900–01 the net charge falling on the revenues of India for Military Services was £15,019,176; in 1905–06 it is estimated at £20,711,900, including grants of £2,439,900 on reorganisation. These grants have been made in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India and include expenditure from an unspent balance brought forward from 1904–05. It is contemplated that the expenditure on reorganisation will be at the rate of £2,000,000 a year for the next few years; and this will be in accordance with a proposal initiated by the Government of India.

China and the Tibetan Treaty.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Chinese Government have assented to the Tibetan Treaty; whether he can state what is the exact amount of the indemnity that is to be paid by the Tibetan people;

and whether there are at present any British or Indian troops in occupation of Tibetan territory.

Mr. BRODRICK: (1) The negotiations as to the adhesion of China to the Tibet Convention are still proceeding. (2) The indemnity to be paid by Tibet is twenty-five lakhs of rupees, as stated in the Declaration appended to the ratified copy of the Tibet Convention, published at page 93 of the last Tibet Blue-book. (3) I am not aware of any change in the number of troops which I informed the hon. Member on the 10th April† were being maintained in Tibetan territory, viz., two and a-half companies of native infantry in Chumbi, and an escort of fifty men with the trade agent at Gyangtse.

Mr. LAMBERT: When are the negotiations with China likely to come to an end?

Mr. BRODRICK: As the hon. Member knows, events do not travel very quickly in China.

Reported Resignation of Sir E. Elles.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask if the Secretary of State for India has had his attention drawn to a statement in a Reuter telegram that Major-General Sir E. Elles is under the impression that he has tendered his resignation and that it has been accepted. The General, it is stated, has proferred his resignation in certain conditions, and these having arisen the Secretary of State has considered it desirable to accept the resignation. Does the right hon. Gentleman still adhere to his statement that Sir E. Elles has not resigned?

Mr. BRODRICK: The hon. Member is perfectly right in saying that in a despatch which I have laid before the House General Sir E. Elles said that in certain eventualities he should tender his resignation. I have not yet heard that he has done so.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Is there any foundation for the statement that the right hon. Gentleman has accepted the resignation?

Mr. BRODRICK: I have nothing to add to my Answer. I have given all the information I have.

Russian Seizures of British Steamers.

Mr. ROBSON (South Shields): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the crew of the British steamship "Allanton," which was unlawfully captured on the 16th June, 1904, by a Russian warship, have as yet received no compensation from the Russian Government for the losses, risks, and hardships imposed on them by reason of the capture, and particularly for their enforced detention of nearly five months at Vladivostock; and whether it is the intention of the Government to present any claim to the Russian Government on behalf of these men.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): May I also ask whether representations have been made to the Russian Government with regard to the sinking of the "Ikhona," and whether instructions are being sent to the commander of the Russian cruiser "Terek" similar to those which have been sent to the commander of the "Dneiper?"

The UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.): I do not think that arises out of the Question, but my impression is that our Ambassador at St. Petersburg has been instructed to bring this matter to the notice of the Russian Government in the same way as the question of the "St. Kilda." The Answer to the earlier portion of the Question of the hon. Member for South Shields is in the affirmative. With reference to the concluding portion I am informed that the crew were in receipt of wages throughout the period of the vessel's detention at Vladivostock, and up to the present sufficient facts have not been brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government to justify a claim being presented to the Russian Government on behalf of the members of the crew.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxliv., 1017.

Income-Tax on Easter Offerings to Clergymen.

Mr. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is by his instructions that income-tax is being claimed on Easter offerings given in some churches to the incumbent by the congregation; and whether he will cause such practice to be discontinued.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): No, Sir, I have issued no instructions on the subject. The tax is claimed in obedience to the law.

Mr. COGHILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that clergymen are being harassed to pay the income-tax?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Question is of an argumentative character, but if the hon. Gentleman will refer to the Income-Tax Act, 1842, he will see that these offerings are chargeable with tax, and it is the business of the Inland Revenue authorities to collect that tax.

The Revenue Bill.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): Will the Chancellor of the Exchequer lay on the Table a Memorandum explanatory of the Revenue Bill, as was done by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer in the case or the Bill of 1903?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think it would be for the convenience of the House that I should lay on the Table a memorandum explanatory of the Revenue Bill. The Bill in the main is composed of clauses to carry out the recommendations of the Committee which sat to inquire into the use of industrial alchol. The other clauses are entirely concerned with the concessions which the Revenue has been asked to make in the interests of justice or convenience to various classes.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Will the clause about chicory be explained?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us what is industrial alcohol?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Member will read the Bill he will ascertain exactly.

"Hansard."

Mr. ARTHUR MORTON (Deptford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the indices attached to each volume of *Hansard*, he will consider the desirability of omitting the Summary of Parliamentary Proceedings, together with a list of Ministers and Parliamentary officials, and a chronology of *Parliamentary Debates*.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.): I am engaged in making inquiries as to the practicability of adopting the suggestions of my hon. friend.

Mr. WHITLEY: Will the hon. Gentleman consult other Members before coming to a decision?

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I shall be glad to consult all sections of the House.

Police and Motor-Car Speeds.

Mr. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that an automobilist, when travelling between twelve and fourteen miles an hour, was stopped recently by the police, who swore he was going forty-three miles an hour; and whether he will ascertain how such a discrepancy arose.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): The question refers to a case quoted by the hon. Member for the Ormskirk Division of Lancashire in the debate which took place on the 1st of this month † on the Local Government Board Estimates. The report of that debate does not show where the incident took place or what was the police force concerned. The hon. Member for the Ormskirk Division has, however, kindly furnished me with this information, and I am now making the inquiry suggested.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlvii., 474.

*Mr. SOARES: And at the same time will the right hon. Gentleman inquire into the case in which Mr. Lane imposed a fine of only 20s. on a man who drove a 50 h.p. motor at the rate of twenty-eight miles an hour through Kensington.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: If the hon. Member will give me particulars I will do my best.

Exclusion of Motor-Cars from Hyde Park.

Sir CHARLES CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, under what regulations the Office of Works has given orders to exclude motor-cars from Hyde Park in the afternoon; and whether the regulation will be laid upon the Table of the House for the information of Members.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): The Regulation under which motor traffic is excluded from Hyde Park between the hours of 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. has been made under the provisions of Rule No. 1 for Hyde Park in connection with the Regulations prescribed by the Parks Regulation Act, 1872 (35 and 36 Vict., cap. 15). There is no legal obligation to lay the notice on the Table of the House; it is exhibited at the entrances to Hyde Park in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether he can state under what regulations motor-carriages of all kinds are to be excluded from Hyde Park between three and seven; whether a longer notice can be given to enable persons using motor-cars to understand exactly by what roads they can travel; whether an exemption can be made in favour of electric or petrol broughams or landaulets which, unlike horse carriages, are already limited to ten miles an hour; and whether Peers and Members of this House have right of ingress and egress when coming backwards and forwards to the House during the session as a matter of privilege.

Lord BALCARRES: The Answer to the first paragraph of the hon. Member's Question is identical with that which I have just given to the hon. Baronet the Member for Barrow-in-Furness. The Answer to the second paragraph is in the negative; the roads which cannot be used are specifically stated. In answer to the third paragraph the First Commissioner is not prepared to make any exception to the rule. In answer to the last paragraph the First Commissioner has no grounds for thinking that Peers and Members of Parliament have any privilege of travelling by motor-car over roads which are closed, under the provision of an Act of Parliament, to such traffic.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU: May I ask whether, under the Sessional Orders, Members of this House have not the right of free access to the House?

*Mr. SPEAKER: That is really not a question on which the hon. Member for Chorley is competent to give an Answer.

Mr. SOARES: Is it not the case that the people using Hyde Park have been protected because they are wealthy, while similar privileges are refused to inhabitants of country districts.

Lord BALCARRES: If country districts were regulated by a similar Act of Parliament the inhabitants would have the same privileges. As regards the wealth of the users of Hyde Park, the hon. Member's Question is purely gratuitous, as the people who suffer under this regulation are generally far more wealthy than those who are protected by it.

Big Ben.

Mr. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside) asked the First Commissioner of Works if he was aware that Big Ben on the previous evening assumed a livid complexion.

Mr. CROOKS: It was green with envy.

Lord BALCARRES asked that notice be given of the Question.

Scarcity of Cottages at Thakeham, Sussex.

Mr. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the scarcity of cottages in the Thakeham Rural District, in Sussex, in consequence of which a man and his family have been compelled against their will to seek shelter in the workhouse, and other families were living in huts in the woods, and one large family in a barn, and to the fact that the Rural District Council of Thakeham have been unable to erect two cottages for their own carters, as no land is available for the purpose of cottage building; and whether it is his intention to take any action in the matter.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): I have communicated with the Clerk to the Thakeham Rural District Council, who is also Clerk to the Guardians of the Thakeham Union, with regard to this Question, and he informs me that he is not aware of any case in the union where a man and his family have been compelled to seek shelter in the workhouse as a result of the scarcity of cottage accommodation, nor has he any knowledge of families having on this account to live in huts in the woods. The case of a family who were living in a barn has recently come before the district council, but I understand that these persons were turned out of their cottage owing to their being considered undesirable tenants, and that throughout their occupation of the barn a cottage within half a mile of it stood empty and unlet. Their occupation of the barn has now ceased. The district council appear to have been unable at present to acquire land for the erection of two cottages for their carters at the particular spot desired, but the Clerk states that the subject is still receiving their consideration. He adds that the question of scarcity of cottages in the district will come before the council at their meeting to-day, and he promises to inform me of the result.

Mr. SCHWANN: I will put further Questions on this matter.

Borrowings by Local Authorities.

Mr. BRIGHT: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the practice of some local authorities to borrow money for special purposes by means of overdraft instead of by recourse to the method provided by statute; whether, in Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board presented to this House for confirmation, such borrowings have been legalised; if so, whether, in each of such cases, an inquiry has been made in the presence of the ratepayers affected, and the circumstances recorded; and what are the number and amounts of such borrowings so legalised since 1895, and at present intended by the Board to be legalised.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I am aware that in some instances local authorities have borrowed money by means of unauthorised overdrafts. The Local Government Board strongly disapprove of this practice; but there have been cases in which they have considered that the facts justified the insertion in Provisional Orders of clauses conferring borrowing or other powers on the local authority with a view to the overdraft being paid off. In each case, before the Order has been made, a local inquiry has been held after notice inviting any person interested to attend, and the circumstances have been reported to the Board by the inspector holding the inquiry. Cases of the kind since 1895 have not been numerous, but an examination of the Papers relating to a very large number of Provisional Orders would be necessary before the precise facts could be given.

Mr. BRIGHT: Is it the custom to surcharge members of councils who exceed their powers in this respect?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir.

Newry Inland Revenue Appeal.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, in view of the statement made by Judge Orr in the appeal case of Inland Revenue *v.* McArdle, at Newry Quarter Sessions on January 5th last, in regard to the magistrates who heard the case in the first instance, he can say if any official notice has been taken of their action.

The ATTORNEY - GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): I have seen a newspaper report of the County Court Judge's remarks in this case. It appears that the magistrates at petty sessions dismissed the case, and that, on appeal by the Inland Revenue authorities, a conviction was had at quarter sessions, the County Court Judge remarking that he could not conceive why the magistrates dismissed the case. There is nothing in this observation to call for any action against the magistrates, and I see no reason why the matter should be brought to the notice of the Lord Chancellor.

Newry Quarter Sessions—Case of John M'Ardle.

Mr. SLOAN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of John M'Ardle, who was convicted at the Newry Quarter Sessions on January 4th last on the charge of selling spirits and beer without a licence; whether M'Ardle, who refused to pay the fine imposed, was sent to gaol on April 11th last, but on the representation of a memorial sent to the Lord-Lieutenant was liberated on May 24th last; and if he can say by whom was the memorial signed, and what was the authorities' report in regard to it.

Mr. ATKINSON: M'Ardle, who was convicted of a revenue offence, namely, selling exciseable liquors without a licence, was released from prison by order of the Board of Inland Revenue, acting under the powers conferred upon them by Section 35 of the Inland Revenue Regulation Act, 1890. A memorial on the prisoner's behalf was received by the Lord-Lieutenant and transmitted by him to the Board, but the Board's order was made before their receipt of the memorial and without any knowledge of it. It would be contrary to practice to give the names of memorialists, or to state the purport of official reports.

Kerry National School Inspector.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the service of Mr. Connolly, Inspector of National Schools in Kerry Circuit, entitles him to full pension in case of his desiring to retire.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): Mr. Connolly is not yet entitled to retire on the maximum pension, seeing that his pensionable service amounts to but thirty-two years.

Extra Subjects in Irish Schools.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that under the system of calculation of the attendances necessary to qualify a pupil for special fees in extra subjects lately enforced by the Board of National Education, a pupil who has attended 160 lessons in an extra subject on 160 days in the school year may be disqualified, whilst payment may be made for pupils who have only attended seventy lessons in the same subject; and whether, in view of the effect of this rule in depriving teachers of fees, he will consider the advisability of having it relaxed.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I beg to refer to the reply given by my right hon. friend the Member for Dover to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for South Kerry on March 28th, 1904.†

Alleged Mutilation of Cattle in North Antrim.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any report has been made to the police as to the mutilation of cattle on the 14th instant at a place called Dunloy, in the north of county Antrim; and whether he can state the name of the owner of the cattle and the circumstances of the outrage.

Mr. WALTER LONG: On the 17th instant the Rev. P. Darragh, of Dunloy, reported to the police that a few nights previously his cow and calf were maliciously injured, the hair being cut off their tails. The police upon examining the animals found the fact to be as stated. The animals were not mutilated. The police have not yet been able to discover the offender, but are carefully pursuing their investigation of the case.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxxii., 849.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Seeing that this clergyman is the parish priest, will the outrage be denounced by the hon. Member for North Antrim ?

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): And will it figure in the next Return as a crime ?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Chief Secretary and the Condition of the Irish Working Classes.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, during his recent tour in Ireland, he made any special inquiries as to the condition of agricultural labourers and the working classes in towns in Ireland; and, if so, whether he proposes to make any legislalative proposals dealing with their position.

Mr. WALTER LONG: No, Sir.

Irish Agricultural Department—Expenditure.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, since it appears that out of a sum of £1,237 odd paid from the Endowment Fund since April 1st, 1900, to officers serving in the Irish Agricultural Department, £1,067 approximately was paid to Protestants and about £170 to Catholics, he can explain the excess in payments to officials of the former as compared with those of the latter religious denomination.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The hon. Member has been repeatedly informed that the question of religion is not taken into account in decisions relating to the appointment and remuneration of the Department's officers.

Bishop of Limerick and Sunday Motoring.

Mr. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the remarks publicly made by the Protestant Bishop of Limerick with reference to the scandal given and inconvenience caused to congregations on Sundays by motorists; and whether he proposes to take any steps to remedy the evils complained of.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The reply to the first inquiry is in the affirmative, and to the second in the negative.

Mr. LUNDON: Did the right hon. Gentleman in the course of his tour visit the Treaty Stone of Limerick, that monument of English perfidy ?

Mr. MACVEAGH: Is he aware that the Bishop of Limerick especially complained of the motoring of the Chief Secretary himself, and that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has also publicly denounced him for motoring on Sundays ?

Mr. WALTER LONG: As to the first Question of the hon. Member for South Down I take it it is a surmise.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Oh, no, I will send you the papers.

Mr. WALTER LONG: As to the other, the hon. Member knows the exact facts and I have nothing to add to them.

Mr. LUNDON: Not the first time we have heard of the law makers being the chief law breakers.

South African War—Case of Thomas Leonard.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a military prisoner, named Thomas Leonard, of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, is at present in Maryborough Prison under a life sentence for an offence against military law committed in South Africa during the late war; and whether, seeing that many other military prisoners who were under long sentences, and one who was sentenced to death for murder, have been discharged, he can say why Leonard is still in prison; and whether it is intended to order his discharge at once; and, if not, what special circumstances require that when the South African War is over Leonard is the only prisoner of the late war in prison in Ireland.

Mr. WALTER LONG: In cases such as this the Lord-Lieutenant is guided, in the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, by the advice of the military authorities. I have already informed the hon. Member that the Army Council is unable, at present, to recommend a remission of the sentence imposed on the prisoner, and that the question of his release will be further considered by the Army Council in October next, when he will have completed three years of his sentence.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: But why is this man detained while another man in the same regiment who was sentenced to death has been discharged?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I have explained that the military authorities have not advised his release, and the Lord-Lieutenant has no right to demand their reasons.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: But I suppose I have a right to demand them, and I again ask why a man convicted of murder has been discharged and this man detained? Seeing that the war is over, is the whole force of the British Crown now directed against this single unfortunate prisoner?

***Mr. SPEAKER**: Notice must be given of any further Question.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Oh, I will give notice, and I will give the recuiting sergeants in Ireland notice too.

Coltsmann Estate, County Kerry.

Mr. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet taken any steps to deal with the application of evicted tenants and reinstated tenants on the Coltsmann Estate, county Kerry, in view of the time during which the estate has been before the Commissioners; and what has been the result of such steps.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I beg to refer to the reply given to the hon. Member's Question of the 5th instant.† No further steps have been taken.

The Irish Land Judge's Court.

Mr. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to recent proceedings in the Land Judge's Court, in Dublin, relating to the insufficiency of funds for the purpose of carrying on sales of estates in Court; whether this insufficiency is caused by any new regulations issued to the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, or in any event, whether he proposes to take any steps to expedite the winding-up of this Court in accordance with the Resolution agreed to by Parliament.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I beg to refer to the reply which I gave to this and similar Questions yesterday.‡

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): How can the Judge carry out the directions of the Court if funds are stopped?

Mr. WALTER LONG: That Question is an unfair one.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Why?

Mr. WALTER LONG: The hon. Member knows the cause of the present deadlock, and I am doing my best to find some way out of it.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: I do not wish to rest under any imputation. The right hon. Gentleman must know that when the Resolution was passed by this House ordering the Land Judge to wind up the business of the Court, there had been £15,000,000 applied for under the Land Act, 1903, and it was perfectly well known that this stoppage would take place.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlvii., 717.

‡ See page 98.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I do not know whether that be the case, but if it is it only strengthens my point. Nobody can be more anxious than the Government and myself to find a way out of the difficulty.

Redistribution.

Mr. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state when he proposes to proceed with his Redistribution Resolutions; and if he can state what are the terms of the Resolutions he intends to submit to the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, I cannot name the day when the House will be asked to deal with the Resolutions which are to be proposed by the Government on the subject of redistribution, and I think the hon Gentleman will agree this is not the occasion on which the House should be made acquainted with their contents.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will the right hon. Gentleman mention the year?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, 1905.

The Unemployed Bill.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can fix a date for taking the Committee stage of the Unemployed Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not yet in a position to name a date for the Committee stage of this Bill.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: Seeing Monday next is practically unoccupied, would that not be a favourable opportunity?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: So far as I can foresee, that day will be occupied by the Aliens Bill.

Mr. CROOKS: Will the Unemployed Bill have precedence over the Redistribution Resolutions.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: They are not at all *in pari materia*.

Mr. CROOKS rose amid cries of "Order."

***Mr. SPEAKER**: The hon. Member having asked a Question should await the reply.

Mr. CROOKS: I understood the Prime Minister had given way. As he is aware I have no knowledge of Latin, will the right hon. Gentleman put his Answer into English?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I was going to supply the hon. Gentleman and others with a loose translation, which is that you cannot really compare Resolutions with a Bill from the point of view of the business of the House, because the one involves First and Second Reading, Committee, and possibly a Report Stage, and a Third Reading, while a Resolution is dealt with at once as a substantive matter.

An HON. MEMBER: A very loose translation if not lucid.

NEW BILL.

PROVISIONAL ORDERS (MARRIAGES) BILL.

"To enable Provisional Orders to be made for removing any invalidity or doubt attaching to Marriages by reason of some informality," presented by Mr. Cochrane; supported by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 256.]

MR. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

ALIENS BILL.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: The Instruction standing in the name of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil is not in order, because it is a mandatory Instruction to a Committee of the Whole House.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

***Mr. LEVY** (Leicestershire, Loughborough) moved the postponement of the consideration of the clause. He pointed out that there was very great diversity of opinion on the opposite side of the House as to the clause as at present drafted. There were, in fact, 149 Amendments put down to the Bill, and ninety-five of those Amendments appeared in the names of the Government or of their supporters, and out of those ninety-five Amendments no fewer than thirty-one had been put down by the Government and their supporters in opposition to Clause 1. That, in his opinion, appeared to be reasonable grounds for suggesting the postponement of the clause until a later stage of the Bill had been reached. Another reason why he suggested the postponement was that he believed the objects the Government professed to desire to attain could be secured by means of expulsion. He was not alone in that view. Indeed, he was well fortified in his opinion, because the chief of the London police, Mr. Henry, in his evidence before the Royal Commission on this subject strongly advocated expulsion as the best means of keeping alien criminals out of this country and stated they never could be identified to be prevented coming into the country. Sir Edward Bradford gave expression to a like opinion, adding that any measure for the mere exclusion of criminals was almost impossible of good effect. One of the chief London magistrates, Sir Albert de Rutzen, also entirely approved of the expulsion clause, and agreed with Mr. Henry and Sir Edward Bradford that, if expulsion were adopted, it would in a very short time have the effect of clearing out most of the criminal aliens from this country. He therefore thought it would be desirable that they should postpone the consideration of Clause 1 until they had dealt with the question of expulsion.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): On a point of order, may I ask whether the hon. Member is speaking to Clause 1, or whether he is not making a Second Reading speech?

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must confine himself to the point whether expulsion should come before exclusion in the Bill.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham): I presume, however, that the hon. Member would be entirely in order in bringing forward any arguments which would tend to justify the second clause being taken before the first.

THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

MR. CHURCHILL: And those arguments need not merely have relevance to the advantage of expulsion over exclusion?

*MR. LEVY said he did not propose to go into the merits or demerits of Clause 1, but he contended that he was perfectly in order, and that the hon. and gallant Member for Sheffield had shown himself somewhat too zealous in his advocacy of the Bill, because, after all, what he was endeavouring to show was that everything which it was desired to secure by the Bill could be attained by taking the expulsion clause first, and then, if it could be shown that an expulsion clause gave them all the powers that were desired, the Government might find it to their advantage to redraft Clause 1. It was a question whether it was desirable to set up such highly expensive machinery as was provided for in Clause 1. It was also a question whether it was desirable to give such great powers, hitherto unknown, to a non-judicial tribunal. Again, it was a question whether it was well to take a step which would revolutionise the whole shipping industry of Great Britain, an industry carried on, undoubtedly, to the profit of the shipowners, and certainly to the great advantage of the British public. Under these circumstances he thought he was fully entitled to ask for the postponement of the clause, and he begged to move accordingly.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be postponed."—(*Mr. Levy.*)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said he was sorry he could not accept the Amendment. The hon. Member had suggested that if Clause 2 were taken first and fully discussed, the Government might deem it desirable to abandon Clause 1.

Mr. LEVY: Or redraft it, at any rate.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he did not think the hon. Member had shown any sufficient reason for altering the drafting of the Bill, which had been most carefully considered not only by himself and the Attorney-General, but also by the draftsmen. They certainly thought that the objects they hoped to secure by the Bill would be best carried out in the manner proposed in the Bill as at present framed. The hon. Member had called attention to the opinions expressed by Mr. Henry and Sir Edward Bradford, but he would like to point out that the evidence which had been quoted dealt solely with the question of the expulsion of criminals, whereas this Bill was intended to deal with the introduction of undesirable aliens. He admitted that when the Bill was before the Grand Committee last year the postponement of Clause 1 was agreed to, but the circumstances now were altogether different. After all, this clause embodied the main principle of the Bill, and surely it was much better that they should give effect, in the first instance, to the principle before they attempted to deal with the machinery. In his opinion, if they were to adopt the suggestion of the hon. Member, the only effect would be to make the Bill unintelligible, and therefore he must ask the House to support him in opposing the Amendment.

***Sir CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said, as he understood it, the hon. Member's object in moving the postponement of Clause 1 was that, if they could first deal with the question of expulsion and could deal with it in the manner they were prepared to, even to the extent of strengthening the powers proposed in the Bill, it might be found unnecessary to proceed with the other proposals in the measure. Of course, he perfectly understood it was not in order to discuss the merits of the clause on this Amendment, and he realised that there were great differences of opinion as to whether the Bill was a measure for the protection of British working men against the competition of foreigners, or whether it was merely a measure for the exclusion of undesirable aliens. They knew that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant were on one side, while the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, holding an entirely different view, was on the other; and that being so, he would ask, was it wise to plunge into this mass of controversial issues? Would it not be better to deal first with the question of expulsion as against exclusion?

Mr. CHURCHILL failed to see why the Home Secretary should have declined to follow the precedent which he set last year in regard to this clause. But, at any rate, it was gratifying to hear from the right hon. Gentleman that the Bill had been well drafted. When they remembered how the last measure was dratfed, it was certainly satisfactory to hear on such a high authority that the inaccuracies, anomalies, and contradictions which were then apparent would not be discovered in the dissection of the present Bill. The right hon. Gentleman had said he would not accept the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for the Loughborough Division of Leicestershire. It might be in vain to urge him to modify that position, but he did urgently trust that this attitude of uncompromising resistance thus displayed on the very first Amendment was not to be taken as the precursor of the treatment to be accorded to all future Amendments in the course of the discussion of the measure.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 165; Noes, 189. (Division List No. 211.)

AYES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, NE(York,NR,Whitby

Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt EC(SAndrw'sB'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. Maidstone)
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J Keir (MerthyrTydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath, N.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Muldoon, John
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, RtHnCR (Northants)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gower
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J.H. (Halifax)
Wills, A. Walters (N. Dorset.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wood, James
Woodhouse, SirJT (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Levy and Dr. Hutchinson.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Allsopp, Hn. George
Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bagot, Capt Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T.Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brymer, William Ernest
Campbell, Rt Hn J.A (Glasgow)
Campbell, J.HM (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Chas. William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, Wm. Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart

Faber, George Denison (York
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, RtHnAilwynEdward
Fergusson, Rt.HnSir J(Manc'r
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir RobertPenrose
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, HnJ.E(Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Greene, W. Raymond(Cambs)
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt.Hn Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Heath, Sir Jas. (StaffordsNW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt Hn. Arthur Fred
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo.T(Denbigh)
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawson, Hn.H.L. W.(Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Long, Col Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
M‘Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Iver, Sir Lewis (EdinburghW
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Maxwell, RtHnSirHE(Wigt'n)
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milner, Rt Hn.Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw(Fermanagh, N.)
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Montagu, Hn. J Scott (Hants.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morton, A. H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, ColWyndham(Bath)
Nicholson, Wm. Graham
O'Neill, Hn. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herb. P. (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. W. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt.Hn. ChasThomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, Wm. Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,HC(North'mbTyneside
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas (Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M‘Taggart
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, RtHnJ.G (Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.Sir C EH(Sheffield
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt-Col.A C E (Taunton)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton undLyne
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he desired to move the Amendment standing in his name in order to elicit the definition which the Government attached to the persons to whom the Act was to apply. The Bill was very difficult to understand, and was very obscure; and he could not but think that it was in conflict with the Merchant Shipping Act. Any definition different from that of the Merchant Shipping Act would cause trouble and inconvenience to shipowners.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) asked if the right hon. Gentleman was in order.

THE CHAIRMAN said he understood that the right hon. Gentleman was only asking a Question which he thought it would be to the convenience of the Committee should be asked.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he had not the slightest intention of obstructing the Bill. If the Secretary of State had power to define who was "a cabin passenger" and who was a "steerage passenger," then the provisions of the Act would be different from the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act. That would cause confusion and inconvenience; and in his opinion the matter should be dealt with solely by reference to the Merchant Shipping Act.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'an immigrant,' and insert the words 'a passenger.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): said the scheme of the Bill was not to adopt the law which obtained in the United States, under which all passengers were subjected to examination before they were allowed to land. That would be the result of the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the Merchant Shipping Act; but the Bill dealt with another matter altogether.

MR. CHURCHILL said the right hon. Gentleman did not state what was the definition of the Government of "a cabin passenger."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that Clause 8 provided that steerage passengers included all passengers not declared by the Secretary of State to be cabin passengers.

MR. CHURCHILL said that the meaning of the word "immigrant" depended on the definition of the words "steerage passenger" and "cabin passenger." What precise significance did the Government attach to the words "cabin passenger." The Committee ought to know.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he was surprised that the Home Secretary did not realise the undesirability of the double definition. Not only were there to be two definitions as regarded passengers; but there were to be distinctions as between different ports. That would be certain to cause trouble and inconvenience.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that the meaning of the word "immigrant" should be cleared up before the Committee proceeded further. They were told that an "immigrant" must not land at certain ports; but then they were informed that the word did not include any person who had a ticket for a foreign port. The Committee ought to know what they were talking about. The clause provided that an immigrant should not be landed except at a port at which there was an immigration officer. But Clause 8 stated that immigrants included a certain class of persons who could land. If the matter could be cleared up now it would expedite the progress of the Bill.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said that the Amendment was of some moment to masters of vessels. The master would first have to make a return to the Board of Trade; and then the names were to be reshuffled, some passengers being put into the cabin class and some into the steerage class. He would suggest that if the Home Secretary adopted the Merchant Shipping Act he would get rid of the great difficulties which would otherwise arise. Even then he would not dispose of the distinction between rich and poor. The system was abandoned in the United States, the distinction having been officially declared to be "absurd." The Attorney-General admitted friction as regarded steerage passengers; why not also as regarded cabin passengers. He maintained it would cause friction in connection with both classes. On the cross-Channel traffic a few shillings would change a man from a steerage to a cabin passenger, and he would urge the Home Secretary to tell the Committee what he meant by "a cabin passenger." He hoped that the definition would be one which would not clash with the Merchant Shipping Act.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) said that the difficulty ought to be apparent to every hon. Gentleman. There was a penalty clause under which the master of a ship was liable to three months imprisonment if he made a wrong return, although he was to be given two definitions. The Attorney-General stated that the definition ought to be different from the definition in the Merchant Shipping Act, but he did not indicate what the difference would be. Certainly the Committee ought not to pass from the matter without further explanation.

*MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said the Committee ought to be informed what the proposal of the Government was. He did not understand why the definition of the Merchant Shipping Act should not be adopted. That there should be some uniformity in the definition of cabin passengers in various Acts of Parliament must be obvious. The definition in the Merchant Shipping Act was negative rather than positive in its character. It amounted however, to this, that a passenger became a cabin passenger if he messed at the same table as the chief or second officer of the ship. If he paid at the rate of at least 30s. per week as his fare in passages north of the equator, and 20s. per week, south of the equator from British ports, a certain cubicle space must be allotted to him and so on. The Attorney-General if he could not adhere to this definition, at least should give reasons why the definition in the Merchant Shipping Act was unsuitable in this Bill.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said that the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act would be absolutely inadequate for short voyages such as from the Continent to the British Islands. He would, however, suggest that the matter should stand over until Clause 8 was under discussion. It was, in his opinion, absolutely necessary that there should be elasticity in the definition of who was a cabin passenger and who a steerage passenger.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he thought it was a great pity to make distinctions on the ground of means. It was not in accordance with English law and practice with regard to the treatment of people arriving in this country. Further, a great number of persons travelling from the Continent would be able to evade the provisions of the clause altogether. He would give a concrete case to show why "passenger" should be substituted for "immigrant." A man was landed at Liverpool five weeks ago; the steamship company gave him 5s., and put him into a lodging-house. Subsequently, he was discovered to be a lunatic at large; and was sent to an asylum. That man would now remain a charge on the rates for the rest of his natural life; and his age was only twenty-two. He was brought back from the United States, having been rejected at New York, and dumped down at Liverpool. He could speak neither English, French, nor German, and it was impossible to ascertain to what country he belonged. Other men of that class could come in if the word "immigrant" were retained in the clause; and a number of the evils which this Bill was designed to meet would remain in an even intensified form.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that there were two questions at issue. There was the inconvenience of the double definition; and also the question as to what was the Government definition of the words "cabin passenger." The Attorney-General stated why the definition in the Merchant Shipping Act would not be applicable; but what was the definition which the Government proposed?

The CHAIRMAN: I think this matter had better be discussed on Clause 8.

Mr. CHURCHILL said he understood that this was the matter on which the discussion was initiated.

The CHAIRMAN: I allowed the right hon. Baronet to ask a Question to which the Attorney-General has replied.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that as yet the Committee had not been informed what was the definition of the Government with reference to the words "cabin passenger or the word "immigrant." The hon. Member for the West Derby Division of Liverpool agreed as to the undesirability of proceeding without having a definition of these words. He sympathised very strongly with the objection against drawing class distinctions based solely on the possession of money. To draw a distinction between a man who could afford a cabin passage and a man who could only afford a steerage passage was absurd. If a man were a lunatic or an idiot he could come in if he could pay for a cabin passage.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE said that without further explanation it was impossible for the Committee to understand the meaning of the Act. At Newhaven there was a great deal of traffic of exactly the same character as that at Dover and Folkestone, and unless some advance statement were made by the Home Secretary as to how it was intended to deal with the matter, the Committee would have considerable difficulty in discussing this clause at all.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) hoped the Amendment would not be pressed to a division, as otherwise many Members would be placed in a very inconvenient position. The effect of the Amendment would be to bring about wholesale inspection of all on board ship, other than the master and crew. The Committee were considering, as practical men, the conditions of the passenger traffic entering this country not only from the East but also from the West. About 170,000 passengers came to England yearly from America and Canada, and they were of a very different class from that which came from Europe and was largely responsible for the presence in our population of many lunatics, idiots, paupers, and criminals. From the point of view of the practical shipowner he submitted that it was very desirable that the Government should have a certain elasticity in the terms proposed. Personally, he thought it was almost impossible at the present stage to press for an exact definition of how they intended to meet trades differing so largely in their composition. He hoped, therefore, that the right hon. Baronet would be content with having raised a most valuable point, and not press it further at present. In any case, he could not possibly support the Amendment.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) pointed out that no sooner had the Committee commenced the consideration of the Bill than it was found impossible to define an alien, because it practically depended upon the definition of a cabin passenger. To leave the matter to the Home Secretary was to leave the whole question in the air, and the whole Bill might as well be left to the Home Secretary. The master of a ship would practically have to decide the question of when a cabin passenger was not a cabin passenger, and all information was refused as to how the point should be decided. Unless this point were settled he failed to see how the Committee could proceed to the other clauses.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) asked whether the word "immigrant" as used in the clause included persons who landed in this country intending to tranship and go elsewhere.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: If the hon. and learned Member will refer to Clause 8 he will see that they are excepted.

MR. WALLACE asked whether it was intended to prevent such people from landing at other than immigration ports.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Certainly not, if they are going merely to transmigrate.

MR. WALLACE called the Attorney-General's attention to the wording of Clause 8—that this word "immigrant" should not include—

> "Any such passenger who shows to the satisfaction of the immigration officer concerned with the case that he desires to land in the United Kingdom only for the purpose of immediately proceeding elsewhere."

But how could he "satisfy the immigration officer" unless he was brought to an immigration port?

THE CHAIRMAN: Whether or not the definition is correct must be discussed on Clause 8.

MR. WALLACE said he was anxious to know the meaning of Clause 1. Were immigrants intending to tranship prohibited by Clause 1 from landing otherwise than at an immigration port? The Attorney-General said that by Clause 8 they were not prohibited. But under that clause they must go to an immigration port and satisfy the immigration officer.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: But not land there.

MR. WALLACE asked whether the Attorney-General really suggested that an immigrant might land anywhere he pleased if he declared he was going to tranship.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: The ship comes to the port and the examination takes place on the ship. If the intending passenger can satisfy the immigration officer that he is going to land merely for the purpose of proceeding to some other country he does not fall within the prohibition of the Bill.

Mr. WALLACE submitted that that was not the point at all. If an immigrant intending to land to go elsewhere came across to England on a ship that did not call at an immigrant port, could he or could he not land at another port? The terms of the Bill did not cover the case at all. How could the Committee proceed with the discussion when the Attorney-General, on being asked the meaning of the word, admitted that the definition clause would make this clause ridiculous? At any rate the two clauses taken together were ridiculous. What the Committee wanted to know was whether an immigrant who intended to tranship could land at any port other than an immigrant port?

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: Yes.

Mr. WALLACE asked whether the Attorney-General could show anything in the Bill excluding such immigrants from the operation of Clause 1. He could not, because it was not there. That showed the absurdity of the position. As he could not get a satisfactory Answer he would move to report Progress.

The CHAIRMAN: It is obvious that the clauses must be put down in some order. The definition clause must come in somewhere, and, as a matter of fact, it comes after the words we are discussing. do not think the fact that the definition clause does not come before the first two words of the Bill is a subject for a Motion to report Progress.

Mr. BRYCE pointed out that the Committee were in a great difficulty in discussing this clause because part of the enacting power was contained in Clause 8 and part in Clause 1. By Progress being reported an opportunity would be given to the Government of introducing operative words into Clause 1, and the Committee would then really be discussing matter of substance. At present, between Clauses 1 and 8, the Committee could not get at the meaning of the Bill, and therefore it was impossible to proceed further at present.

The CHAIRMAN: Under Rule 23 it is entirely within my discretion, if I consider that a Motion is not a proper one, either to put the Question from the Chair forthwith, or to decline to put the Question at all. I think my proper course on this occasion is to adopt the intermediate course, and to put the Motion at once from the Chair.

Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 184; Noes, 210. (Division List No. 212.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice CaptEC(S Andrw'sBghs.
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, SirFrancisH.(Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddar,d Daniel Ford
Grey,Rt Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jocoby, James Alfred
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath,N.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F (Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Muldoon, John
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col John P.(Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely,Maj.J.E.B. (Isle ofWight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson(Leeds,S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills,ArthurWalters(N. Dorset
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse,SirJ.T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. Robert Spencer.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arpold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J.(Manch'r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt.HnSirMichael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Brymer, William Ernest
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J.A.(Gl'gow
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt.Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.HnJ.A.(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb, Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies, SirHoratioD. Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,Rt.Hn AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r.
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon.Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William

Godson,Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E. (Elgin &Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,Maj Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon, Sir John Eldon
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson,Hn H L W. (Mile End)
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt. Hn.Walter (Bristol,S)
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(Edinburgh,W
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H.(Dumfrieshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Milner,Rt. Hn. Sir FrederickG.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mitchell, Wiliam (Burnley) .
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert(Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie,Rt.Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, SirHarry S(Limehouse
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H.(Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,H.C.(North'mbTyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Edward Jas. (Somerset
Stanley,Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, SirMarkJ. M.M'Taggrt
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E (Chichester.)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col Sir CEH(Sheffield)
Walrond,Rt.Hn. SirWilliamH.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Whiteley,H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said that anyone who had listened to the debate as he had done could not come to any other conclusion than that the Government had come down to this House for the second time without understanding their own Bill. He thought it was a perfect farce, and it was altogether unfair to the House and to the Committee to come down with one of the principal measures of the session, and upon the very first Amendment show that they themselves had never seriously considered the real meaning of this particular clause. At the present moment he preferred to ask for a definition of the word "immigrant." Up to the present moment the Attorney-General, with a great desire to meet reasonable criticism, and with all his ability and eloquence and his great desire to get the Bill through, had failed to explain satisfactorily to the Committee what the definition of this particular word was. Under these circumstances the Government must not complain if the progress of the measure was not so rapid as it would otherwise be. He well remembered how they were sneered at last year for moving Amendments which were to-day embodied in the Bill. But the right hon. Gentleman could not give a single explanation to satisfy the Committee. He was clever enough to know that this was not a workable Bill. If the right hon. Gentleman could not give a definition, why did he not call in the support of some of his hon. friends? Where was the hon. Member for Sheffield, or the hon. Member for Stepney, who was supposed to be the pioneer of the movement? Could the hon. Member look with satisfaction on the inability of the Government to understand their own Bill? Why would he not give the Committee the interpretation of the word they were now considering. They had ascertained that if an immigrant, so-called, could only travel as a cabin passenger he would be thoroughly welcome in the United Kingdom. That was a very important admission to have obtained. On the boats between Dieppe and Newhaven one end was steerage and the other end cabin, and a steerage passenger had only to pay the extra 2s. that was charged in order to become a cabin passenger. It was impossible for the Committee to go on with the discussion of the Bill, simply leaving the Home Secretary to state what was the interpretation of the word when they came to consider Clause 8, or leaving the right hon. Gentleman to include it in the rules to be passed under the Bill. That was not the way in which the Committee should be asked to consider a Bill of so far-reaching a character.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he did not think it necessary to add anything in the nature of a further explanation of what was meant by the words "cabin passengers." The second point on which the hon. Member for Perth desired information was in reference to the question of the transhipment of aliens. He ventured to think that was a question of the most absolute simplicity. If the hon. Members would look at the terms of the Bill they would find that the difficulties referred to did not really exist. It was not intended to prevent passengers going through the United Kingdom if they were going to America or elsewhere, but it was perfectly obvious that they must secure that a person who said he was landing in the United Kingdom only for the purpose of going elsewhere was really only landing for that purpose, and that he was going to America or some other country. They could secure that only if they insisted on his coming to an immigration port where he could be tested. The hon. Member for Perth would see if he looked at the first sub-section of Clause 8 that the matter was put beyond all doubt. It was in the following terms—

> "The expression 'immigrant' in this Act means an alien steerage passenger who is to be landed in the United Kingdom, but does not include any such passenger who shows to the satisfaction of the immigration officer on board concerned with the case that he desires to land in the United Kingdom only for the purpose of immediately proceeding to some destination out of the United Kingdom."

To allow persons who said that they were merely going through the United Kingdom to land at any other than an immigration port would be to encourage wholesale evasion. In order to ascertain whether a man was a transmigrant it was necessary that he should land at an immigration port. They did not desire to interfere with the transmigrants, but they must require that all such persons who came to immigration ports should give satisfaction to the officer on board that they were really going out of the kingdom. If they were allowed to land at other ports the country would be infested with persons who were really not transmigrants at all. He was sure that the hon. and learned Member for Perth would admit that what he had stated completely answered the point.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said he had listened with great interest to what had fallen from the Attorney-General. Owing to the ejaculation which was made across the Table of the House by the Home Secretary the Committee were led to an exactly opposite conclusion. It was not with the object of labouring that point that he rose, but he wanted to ask the Home Secretary a question which he thought was a fair one. If this discussion had proved nothing else, it had proved that a most important point was as to what the future definition of a cabin passsenger was going to be. Everything would depend on the terms of the orders to be issued under this Bill by the Home Office. That came clearly out under Sub-section 3 of Section 8, but the Committee were a long way from that section. What he wanted to ask the Home Secretary was whether he could undertake before the Committee reached Section 8, or, in any case, before they reached the Report stage of the Bill, to lay before the House the general order contemplated under Sub-section 3 of Section 8 in regard to the expressions "passenger" and "steerage passenger." He could quite understand that certain ports would require special orders to be issued. He was not saying that these special orders should be laid on the Table of the House, but he submitted that they would be able to discuss that clause with infinitely greater ease and clearness if they had before them the text of the general order giving the definition of the terms referred to.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfiefd) said the word "immigrant" was not a suitable one to use, and that it would lead to all sorts of difficulties. Take the case of Liverpool, which would not be an immigration port and would have no officer. If a ship arrived at that port with a party of foreign immigrants on board, they could not be allowed to land over night because there would be no officer to allow them. That was one of the difficulties, and there were several others which would arise out of the use of the word "immigrant." The only chance of making the Bill successful, or of its doing any good at all, was by giving wide powers, though the Government should not be obliged to put them all into execution. He thought the word "passenger" would be a more appropriate one to use, because it would take in all immigrants, including "undesirables." There would be outcries from every port where they tried to put the Bill in force, and also from the shipping companies. If the Bill was to be put in force, let them have it in a form which would do some good. He thought this was a case where the widest power should be given to the Government and where there should be some chance of making the Bill useful instead of its being made a good Party cry.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said that there was no arrangement in the Bill, so far as he could see, to prevent these people from landing at a port where there was no immigration officer. They could land at such ports in thousands. If there was to be an immigration officer at every port in the United Kingdom, then a great drawback would be put on the trade of this country. The House had been asked to vote £500,000 to back up the Cunard Company on the ground that our trade was declining; but he had lately seen placards in Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, and other towns in Germany advising emigrants not to come through England. Would they come through this country if they were to be examined at every port? He was one of those who opposed the Bill upstairs last year on the ground that it was impractical and that it would cause more harm than good. It was a great modern instance of the Chinaman burning down his house in order to get good roast pork.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said that the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had shown that there would be great difficulties in carrying out this measure where there was transmigration traffic. He wished to draw attention to the difficulty in regard to the word "immigrant." He fancied that the Government could not define that word. No Member on the opposite side of the House dared say that he had read this Bill carefully and that he had no doubt that the word "immigrant" was clearly defined in it. It might not be pleasant to hear, but it was true. According to the Bill the definition of an immigrant was that if a man was rich, however vicious he might be, he was not an immigrant; but that if he was poor, however respectable, he was an immigrant and could be excluded from entering this country. That lay at the root of the whole of this Bill; and it was for that reason that he opposed the Bill of last year. Unless it could be really shown that under this Bill the criminal, whether rich or poor, would be excluded he would oppose it.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that the hon. Member for Bolton seemed to think that immigrants might go in immigrant ships to ports where there was no immigration officer. The object of the Bill was to deal with a certain class of immigrants at certain ports possessing immigration machinery.

MR. HARWOOD said he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the bulk of these immigrants did not come to this country in immigrant ships, but in ordinary ships.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that from inquiries which he had made, that was not the case. Ninety-seven per cent. came in these ships to eight certain ports.

MR. LOUGH asked if that 97 per cent. included transmigrants.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that it did. It was not the wish of the Government in any way to hamper foreigners who were *bona fide* passing through this country on their way to another; nor was it their desire to hamper shipowners in that trade. He had put Amendments on the Paper which would, he believed, meet, to a large extent, their objections to the Bill. He could not accept the statement of the hon. and gallant Member for the Isle of Wight that what the Government wanted was not to exclude the rich criminal but to touch the poor immigrant.

MAJOR SEELY said he did not utter a single word as to the wish of the Government to allow the rich criminal to land here. What he said was that the effect of the clause would be to allow the rich criminal to come in and to exclude the poor immigrant.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that the criminal class was dealt with almost entirely under Clause 3; and that clause applied equally to rich and poor. The hon. and gallant Gentleman said that it would be easy for a rich man to come in, and not for a poor man. He did not admit that at all, because it was perfectly possible for a respectable man to come here without necessarily showing that he had a certain amount of means, if he could show that he had an offer of employment in his pocket, or had friends or relations in this country. In that case there would be no difficulty whatever in the way of his getting in. These were the intentions of the Government. Hon. Members must see that the Government were not at all unwilling to receive their assistance in improving the Bill. Although they had not been able to accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Dundee, the discussions which had taken place upstairs last year had considerably modified their proposals, and the discussions which had taken place on the early part of the Bill would be borne in mind when they came to deal later with the definition clauses. He could not give any definite pledge to the noble Lord opposite in regard to the appeal he had made, but when they came to discuss Clause 8 dealing with definitions the Government would endeavour to indicate to the House the general lines of the Orders which would be prepared for the carrying out of the provisions of the Bill.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER asked if there was any reason against adopting "passenger" instead of "immigrant."

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he thought so. If they thought of the enormous inconvenience there would be —[AN HON. MEMBER on the OPPOSITION Benches: To the rich man.] — not only to the rich man but to the poor, who did not come within the categories in this Bill.

MR. BRYCE said that the declarations of the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary and the Attorney-General were not very clear to some hon. Members. Take the case of a Pole who, instead of coming in one of the big ships, came from Calais to Dover, which was not a port where there was an immigration officer. Would he be able to land at Dover? He understood that an immigrant ship was defined in the Bill as one which carried more than twenty alien steerage passengers. Would the Home Secretary tell the Committee how the Bill would work in that case?

MR. WALLACE asked if these alien immigrans came in batches of nineteen were they entitled to go anywhere they liked in this country?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he was anxious to be perfectly frank on the matter. This Bill was intended to deal with the immigration of a certain class of aliens who arrived here in bulk. It was perfectly true that it would be impossible, without great expense, to erect immigrant machinery at every port in this country. They could not, therefore, prevent the infiltration of some undesirable immigrants into this country. But in a great many cases the undesirables would be dealt with under Clauses 3 and 4. Every country had a right to say what class of people should come within their borders; and we were perfectly right in saying that we could not allow large numbers of undesirable immigrants to come in here.

Mr. BRYCE said that immigrants could come in in batches of nineteen.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that there were Amendments to reduce the number which would have consideration.

Mr. WALLACE said that he was quite sure after the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that they would come in bodies of nineteen.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that the Committee would welcome the tone of the right hon. Gentleman's statement. He, himself, thoroughly agreed that examination should be restricted to certain ports. That was the only means by which the machinery could be put into execution. The infiltration of immigrants in tens and fifteens would, however, continue. The right hon. Gentleman had not given any reason for rejecting the Amendment. He wanted to know, however, why should a criminal, a lunatic, an idiot, a prostitute, or a diseased person come into this country immune from the provisions of the Bill simply because he or she could afford to take a cabin ticket? He really did not believe that the Tory Party would adopt such an absurd position. What would happen? A rope would be fastened across the deck. All on one side would be immune; all on the other would not. The possession of some small change was to be the deciding factor whether or not an immigrant should be allowed to enter, and the effect of the measure was to draw a line between rich and poor. Poverty was to be more loathsome than lunacy, idiocy, or disease, and unless a satisfactory answer were given to the Amendment the Bill would meet with very serious opposition.

Mr. PEEL (Manchester, S.) said he had an Amendment on the Paper to reduce the number of immigrants from twenty to five; and he was glad to hear the statement of the Home Secretary on the point. As regarded the matter mentioned by the hon. Member for the Lichfield Division, the expression "passenger" included all passengers except those who might be directed by the Secretary of State to be regarded as cabin passengers. There was need for elasticity in the matter, and the Secretary of State should be given full liberty to lay down the necessary regulations. He was glad, therefore, that his right hon. friend had not given any undertaking as to what the precise regulations were to be.

Mr. LOUGH said that the statement of the Home Secretary did not include transmigrants. If they were excluded there would be a tremendous interference with one of the most lucrative industries in this country. The Home Secretary admitted that the evil he had to deal with was a local one, and comparatively a small one. The right hon. Gentleman knew from deputations from shipowners what great injury might be inflicted, yet he proposed to confine the transmigrant traffic to nine ports. In his opinion it would be far better to exclude the transmigrants altogether than make such a regulation. Many important ports, such as Dover and Queenborough, would have to be excluded. The Home Secretary was not in the difficulty he thought he was in regard to this matter. The right hon. Gentleman asked how he could prevent transmigrants stopping in this country; but he could throw the onus on the shipping companies.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman appears to be straying from the Amendment before the Committee.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that the question could be discussed on the next Amendment.

Mr. LOUGH said that in that case he would not continue the discussion.

*Mr. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said that, as yet, the Committee had had no definition of the word "immigrant." Surely it was not contended that poverty was the deciding reason why an idiot, a lunatic, or a criminal should be kept out of the country. They did not want idiots, lunatics, or criminals, whether they were rich or poor. He was a member of the Committee which considered the Bill last session, and he sympathised with the aims of the Government, which he believed to be good; but it seemed to him impossible that a poverty test should be imposed. To many people that would appear to be the main test The substitution of the word "passenger" for "immigrant" would undoubtedly enlarge the scope of the Bill. It would, however, much simplify matters if the "word "passenger" were substituted for the word ' immigrant." If the Government had this discriminating power why should it not apply to the rich as well as the poor undesirable? Surely the Government did not wish the country to believe that the possession of money was the real test under the Bill. The acceptance of the Amendment was on all fours with the object of the measure; it would increase, not lessen, the power of the Government, and perhaps give them greater justification later on for exercising the option which the Bill would give them.

*Mr. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) said the great objection to the Amendment was to be found in the avowed object of the Bill itself, which was to restrict the influx into this country of a certain class of undesirable immigrants who came here, not to pass through, but to settle and to compete with the people of this country under unfair conditions. Even if the term "immigrant" were not defined, the well-known object of the Bill would surely justify the use of the word, and the limitations and qualifications could be dealt with at a later stage on the definition clause. If the Amendment were accepted, it would cause the Bill to be applied to a class for whom it was not primarily intended.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said that from the point of view of the welfare of the country he would rather take in a poverty-stricken man who came seeking honest employment than a man who meant to float a company and put his skill to nefarious purposes. Why should any class distinction be made? The most dangerous immigrants were frequently those who could pay for first-class passages and who come simply to exploit the country. When he landed in America as a young miner forty-five years ago he had £3; others possibly had £100, but he submitted that he was of the more use to the country because he offered his labour to the first man who would buy it. If the right hon. Gentleman wished the Bill to be acceptable and to have any effect on the moral character of the country, he would have to make it apply to all undesirables. The real gist of the matter was in the definition clause. It made no difference which end of a ship the immigrant came in; if he was an honest man he should be welcomed whether he came steerage or cabin.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) referring to the question whether an immigrant might be landed at other than an immigration port, pointed out that Liverpool was not one of the proposed ports.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Yes, it is.

Mr. WHITLEY: Is that in addition to the ports first named?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS was understood to say that he had intimated that Liverpool would be included.

Mr. WHITLEY said that was satisfactory to a certain extent, but it did not touch the general point he was about to raise. Considerable numbers of Swedes and Norwegians habitually went to the United States for two or three years, and then returned home, coming, as a rule, through this country. Under this Bill, if they went to a port at which there was not an immigration officer they would be unable to land, but would have to go round the coast until they came to an immigration port, their only crime being that they had travelled economically in order to have more money to take home, possibly, to their parents. The direct result would be that the whole of that traffic would be driven to the German ships which went round the coast. Then there was the case of the young English workman who went to the United States and became a naturalised American. If he proposed to come home for a three months holiday—as many such did—it was possible that, under the drafting of the Bill, unless he arrived at an immigration port, he would not be allowed to land. Clause 1 was so absurdly drafted that it would do far more harm to the commerce and trade of the country than good to certain localities.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that both the points raised by the hon. Member had been considered. There was undoubtedly a large traffic in Scandinavians, and he thought he could see his way to meet that point satisfactorily. As to the other case, he was not prepared to say that such men would be undesirable aliens. When the Committee reached the part of the Bill concerned, he would be able to show the hon. Member that such a thing as he had suggested would not be likely to happen.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said the steerage accommodation was now so much better than it used to be that men with considerable means frequently travelled that way. Numbers of men came over here to spend a few months, and in order to save money travelled steerage. They would all be affected by this Bill.

Mr. WHITLEY said the right hon. Gentleman had entirely missed his point. It was no good the Home Secretary saying that the men would not be shut out because they were not undesirable aliens. They would not be able to prove their desirability, as they would not be allowed to land.

The CHAIRMAN asked how the hon. Member connected his point with the Amendment.

Mr. WHITLEY said everything depended on the interpretation of the word "immigrant." The Bill was so drawn that it would apply to the class he had described, and no amount of *finesse* in definition could get over the fact.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that if immigrant traffic showed a tendency to develop at a particular port the necessary machinery would be set up. If the machinery was not there the port would be closed to "immigrant ships" but not to aliens arriving in any other ships.

Mr. DOBBIE (Ayr Burghs) asked the Committee to consider how the shipping interest of Scotland would be affected unless this Amendment were accepted. Leith, the only Scotch port scheduled, was but one of several, and it was not the most important for Continental traffic. Immigrants who now arrived at Dundee or Glasgow, frequently only to pass through Scotland, would be compelled to go to Leith, or be prevented from landing.

The CHAIRMAN said the remarks of the hon. Member would be more in order on the Question that Clause 1 stand part, or on Clause 6, but they were not in order on this Amendment.

Mr. DOBBIE said that unless the Amendment were accepted the object of the Bill as far as Scotland was concerned would be defeated, because there they suffered not from the usual class of immigrant, but from a minor class who came from the Baltic in small numbers, usually not in immigrant ships, and who consequently would not be included under the Bill unless "passenger" were substituted for "immigrant." The rejection of the Amendment would prevent the operation of the clause in the prevention of an admitted evil, and dislocate the trade not only of Leith but also of other Scotch ports.

Mr. SEELY (Lincoln) thought the best way of dealing with the question was to leave in the word "immigrant" and give it in the definition clause the natural meaning assigned to it in the English language. An immigrant was a man who came to this country with the intention of residing here, and he was no more or no less an immigrant whether he came as a steerage or a cabin passenger. Such a course would meet the difficulties that had been suggested and others that might arise.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 227; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 213.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Capt. C.B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt.Hn.GeraldW(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt.Hn.Sir MichaelHicks
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Brymer, William Ernest
Ball, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Glasgow
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.JA.(Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, SirHoratio D.(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Rt.Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dorington,Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton

Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, RtHnAilwynEdward
Fergusson, Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,Sir R.B.I(nv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, Hn. J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A (Stafford, W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jeffreys,Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. SirJohn H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo.T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn.Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph(Monm'th
Lawson, Hn.H.L. W.(Mile End)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt Hn Walter(Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)

Lucas,Reginald J(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(Edinburgh,W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hannael
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt.Hn Sir HE(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Milner,Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan, DavidJ(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur, H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm.RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpont, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones,Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt.Hn. Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir HarryS(Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas

Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, H.C.(North'mb.Tynesde
Smith, Rt HnJ Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn JG(OxfordUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, ColSirC.E.H.(Sheffield
Walrond, Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt. Col.A CE (Taunton)
Whiteley, H (Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt.E C(SAndrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir FrancisH(Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alexander(Lanark,NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt HnHerbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jocoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath, N)
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex.(Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F(Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Muldoon, John
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col.John P (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schawann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J.EB (Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C R (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal

Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N Dorset
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York. W. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Churchill and Mr. Runciman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I call upon the hon. Member for West Islington to move his second Amendment.

MR. LOUGH asked if his first Amendment was out of order.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not in order here, and it should come on Clause 8.

MR. LOUGH said they had been told that "immigrant" included "transmigrant."

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be open to the hon. Member to move his solution of the difficulty on that part of the Bill.

MR. WHITLEY said that, owing to what occurred a few moments ago, it was necessary that an Amendment should be put in after "immigrant" to protect the case of the British-born workman returning to visit his family. There was also the case of the Irishman who emigrated to the States, naturalised himself there, and then came home to revisit his relatives.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is no Question before the Committee.

MR. WHITLEY said he would move to insert after the word "immigrant" the words "not being a British-born subject." This was a matter which affected a large number of persons.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is a Bill to amend the law with regard to aliens. I do not think any Amendment dealing with British-born subjects would be in order.

MR. WHITLEY said that if they could be assured that a person who had been naturalised in the United States, although born in this country, was not an alien, then it covered the ground. It was possible in such a case that a person would be refused a landing at Queenstown and be obliged to go to Liverpool, and it should be observed that this only applied to steerage passengers. He would move to add after the word "immigrant" the words "if he has not been born in the United Kingdom."

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) said he thought any restriction upon the word "immigrant" should be made in Clause 8. To insert such Amendments now might lead to serious confusion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It would not be in order to insert this Amendment here and it will more properly come in on Clause 8.

MR. CHURCHILL said he understood that the hon. Member for Halifax had been allowed to move his Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: No; that is not so.

MR. LOUGH moved to leave out from the word "not" in line 6 and to insert the word "only." The Amendment superficially appeared small, but it really involved a large question. The thing he feared about the Bill was the damage it would do to British trade. The Bill was constructed on the idea that once a great passenger ship arrived at a port there might be established on board a police Court, and lunatics or diseased people might be kept on board, The profit of a ship depended on having the ship rapidly cleared. When in New York he paid some attention to the working of a law for the exclusion of undesirable aliens, and he found that the greatest pains were taken to avoid delays to shipping. He noticed that there was not the slightest difficulty in getting the great liners cleared of the immigrants on board as well as the cabin passengers. An hour after it was cleared the ship was being cleaned, and arrangements were being made for the next voyage. This Bill was drafted without the most elementary knowledge of the requirements of seafaring. Every obstacle was placed in the way of getting passengers landed. If any immigrant was dissatisfied with the decision of the immigration officer, he could take his case to a Court of Appeal on the same afternoon or next day, and that would mean delaying the ship. The profit often depended on the number of voyages that could be made within a certain time. Great advantage would be given to our rivals in the shipping trade if the arrangements in the Bill were persisted in. The Home Secretary knew all about this point, for he had been worried a great deal about it during the last month or two. It was because of the difficulty on this point that they were so late in getting the Bill into Committee. Was it not a reasonable thing to consider the dangers and difficulties that would be involved if the present framing of the Bill was retained? If they adopted the principle of the Bill they must go the whole way and set up suitable asylums to which immigrants could be brought. If there were lunatics on board a staff would have to be kept up to guard them as they might set fire to the ship in the night. The Home Secretary had partly conceded this point and had given notice of an Amendment to be moved later on. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman to go further and to allow the immigrants to be landed and suitably accommodated at the port in a place approved by the Board of Trade.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word 'not,' and insert the word 'only.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'not' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he understood that the hon. Gentleman desired that the whole of the examination should take place at the port of landing after the ship had arrived. The question of examination had been carefully considered. They were agreed that the process must be as speedy as possible. It was for the advantage of the aliens, the shipowners, and the country that the decision should be come to as early as possible, and the Government thought that in many cases, where there were few aliens on board, the immigration officer could do the work perfectly well on board. It was perfectly true that a hard-and-fast rule could not be made for every port. There were ports, such as the port of London, where it would be possible when a ship was coming up the Thames for the immigration officer to go on board at Gravesend and do his work coming up. It would be the desire of shipowners that this alternative should be allowed. There was an objection to the hon. Member's Amendment from the point of view of those who supported the Bill. They were not prepared to allow the alien to pass from the control of the shipowner until the decision was given. This was very important from their point of view, and although they were prepared to have the examination on board ship or on landing at the port as might be thought best in the circumstances of the case, they were not prepared to allow the responsiblity of the shipowner to cease from the moment he was disembarked. He was glad to say that shipowners accepted the view that they must retain responsibility, and that they must see that premises were available for the immigrants on landing. There were many ports—London, Liverpool, and others—where there was no reason why the examination should not take place on land. Disembarkation for that purpose would not, technically speaking, be a landing. He was not prepared to make the concession which the hon. Member for Islington desired. It was quite impossible, as he had pointed out before, that all the ports would agree on any common practice.

Mr. GUEST (Plymouth) said he understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that in no case could a ship be considered cleared until all the immigrants had passed the examining officer. His reason for saying that was that he could not allow the shipowner to escape the responsibility of taking the undesirable alien back again. The Bill provided that in the event of any alien becoming a member of the criminal class within six months after landing in the country he might be exported at the expense of the shipowner. He did not see, therefore, why the right hon. Gentleman should not accept the Amendment.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said facilities might be given to shipowners to get rid as soon as possible of the obligations imposed on them by the Bill. He did not quite follow his right hon. friend in his statement that the shipowners were to accept full responsibility for those undesirable aliens who were to be conditionally disembarked; still less could he accept the point raised by the hon. Member for Plymouth that that condition should extend for six months. These, however, were points which could be debated later on. It would be quite impossible for shipowners to take on liability for six months residence in the country where those persons had been allowed to enter by the legal immigration officer. In these circumstances, he insisted that the responsibility was with the country and not with the shipowners.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that this was one of the most important clauses in the working of the Bill. It related to a point which, in the experience of the United States and Canada, had caused the greatest difficulty and had been the subject of the amendment of their legislation during the past twenty years. There was no doubt whatever that it would be found in practice that in every one of the important ports in England where immigrants were landed it would be absolutely necessary to have suitable places on shore for the purpose of detention and inquiry. Again, vessels were constantly arriving at these ports with immigrants on board who were ill; and it frequently happened that the children were ill when the parents or guardians were not. These had also to be taken care of while the sick children were being attended to. That was a most important and difficult matter in the United States and in Canada. There from 7 to 8 per cent. of all immigrants required to be detained for examination or for inquiry for some special reason. In the meantime all sorts of restrictions, such as bonds, were placed on the vessels. He found that in the United States they started in precisely the same sort of way as was now proposed in this Bill before the House—viz., without any provision for shore depots for detention; and they were forced by the circumstances of the case to provide such places at very great expense. It was the same in Canada. It had been found absolutely impossible to examine the immigrants on board ship, to determine whether they were suffering from all or any of the diseases enumerated in the schedule, such as lameness, rickets, swollen glands, defects of speech, disease of the bones, etc. He had the Report for last year of the Immigration Office in Canada, in which it was pointed out that, by the force of circumstances, they had been compelled to go to great expense in providing machinery to carry out the immigration law on shore rather than on shipboard. He would point out that very large number of the people we should have to deal with in this country would be transmigrants. In Canada they had last year to deal with 30,374 transmigrants who were on their way to the United States. It was necessary that if a Bill of this kind was to be of the slightest use it should be effective. Of course, it was desirable that we should be able to shut out from this country the riff-raff of immigrants; but we must take them as they came. A large proportion of them would be good and a small proportion bad. But in the case of transmigrants the good would go on to America, while the bad would be left here. He hoped the Committee would reject this Amendment, which would not touch the question at all, and that the Amendment of his right hon. friend would be accepted, which provided for all that was required for the purposes of "inspection and inquiry."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar), who was indistinctly heard, was understood to say that all that was wanted was to clear the ships as quickly as possible. He believed that it was quite exceptional in America to have places of reception and examination for immigrants. He thought that the hon. Member who had just spoken was under a misapprehension in regard to the effect of the proposed amended clause which would impose additional liability on shipowners, because, while the immigrants were on shore the ship could be cleared, and the officers would be freed from the liability of looking after the immigrants. Under the circumstances, he should support the Amendment of his hon. friend rather than that of the Home Secretary as more likely to obtain what was desired.

Mr. RUNCIMAN said a vessel carrying immigrants was only a few hours in port and they often carried 600 or 700 passengers on board. The truth was that the passengers were so closely packed together that there were no means whatever for all of them to be examined singly by the immigration agent or the medical officer. If there was to be a place on shore for the examination of the passengers, as, for instance, at Newhaven, were these facilities to be provided at the expense of the shipowners or of the State?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that all he wanted was that the paseengers should be examined either on board ship or on shore. He certainly did not intend that the shelters or depôts—[An Hon. Member on the Irish Benches: Or compounds]—should be provided at the expense of the State. Several hon. Members had called attention to the practice which prevailed in America; but there was a very considerable difference between the nature of the traffic there and here. In America the immigrants only went to three or four ports. A great deal was to be said for the provision suggested by the hon. Member behind him, but if they were to deal with a number of ports in this country they must have more elasticity. Therefore, it might be necessary to make different regulations for the Eastern ports and the Western ports. In the Thames and the Tyne, though he did not know so much of the latter as of the former, and in nearly all the other east coast ports, arrangements might be made by the shipping companies or the harbour authorities for the examination to take place on the shore. He admitted that that would add to the expense, but he did not think that that extra expense should be borne by the State.

Mr. RUNCIMAN said he quite understood what the intention of the right hon. Gentleman was, and he was glad that they had elicited from the right hon. Gentleman the very important fact that if shipowners were to avoid the detention of their vessels—a totally impossible proceeding—they would have to provide, at their own expense, accommodation for the examination of these passengers on shore. Some ports would be more expensive than others as regarded wharfage and warehouses, and in certain ports it would be impossible to get extra accommodation. Persons engaged in this industry would be let in for a new liability, which it could not well bear. He would say nothing about the inconvenience to the passenger; but if the examination were to take place on the Thames or the Tyne in winter he did not envy the passenger. It showed how little the proposals of the measure had been thought out.

Mr. CHURCHILL said it was quite clear that the Home Secretary contemplated a double system. Some passengers were to be inspected at sea and others in compounds on land. Both systems, however, would impose a burden on the shipping trade. He wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman to what comparative extent each system was to be used, and, also, by what means he would be able to compel shipping companies to provide accommodation on shore.

Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said he thought the Amendment was uncalled for.

Mr. LOUGH said that the Bill was built on the idea to prevent landing. He wanted to alter that, and to allow landing, so that there should be no interference with the shipping trade.

Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR said he saw no difference between the words in the Bill and the words in the Amendment. In any event, the proper time to deal with the matter was on a subsequent Amendment. He knew something of the feeling of the shipowners, and he believed they were quite satisfied with the proposal of the Home Secretary.

MR. CHURCHILL asked the Home Secretary to what extent it was proposed to have recourse to special examination on shore, and at what ports.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that there were no particular ports to which they tied themselves. There was nothing to prevent any one of the ports mentioned being replaced by another, or the list being increased or diminished. He was not prepared to say at which ports it was proposed to establish these depots. He wanted it to be at the option of the shipowner. If the latter thought it better to have the examination on the quay, then it certainly would take place there, and *vice versa.* It was quite possible in the same port they might have examination of persons brought by one line of steamers on land, and of those brought by another, on board. The examination at present was conducted by an extremely able staff, and many shipowners preferred that it should take place at sea, and not wait until the ship was alongside. Surely it was better to give the shipowners the option.

MR. STUART SAMUEL asked if it would not be more convenient to take his Amendment now.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said the debate showed the utter impracticability of the whole scheme. He wondered whether the hon. Members representing Liverpool considered the vast numbers of passengers who were being landed at Liverpool and who had to be got off these ships. They all knew the state of congestion that already existed in Liverpool. In his view, the right hon. Gentleman had suggested something it was impossible to carry into effect. He did not understand how they were going to deal with this traffic. It might be possible for officers to go on board at Kingstown and other places and examine numbers of these immigrants, but they could not examine them all, and to examine them on these shores would entail a large charge on Liverpool. Who was to provide these shelters or concentration camps? The corporation of Liverpool, the Government, or the shipowners? The right hon. Gentleman said the shipowners were, but would not that put an intolerable burden upon the shipowners? The whole thing showed the morass through which the right hon. Gentleman was plodding his way and from which he apparently did not know how to extricate himself. The Bill had not been thought out in its working; the details had not been considered, and for his part he did not see how it was to be carried out.

*MR. EMMOTT asked what the right hon. Gentleman proposed to do with the shipowners. The right hon. Gentleman had indicated that he intended to make them build these shelters or compounds, or whatever they might be called, but he took no powers in his Bill to do so. The inference was that he would bully them into building shelters by making them wait ever so long before their ships could be cleared. That was not an English way of doing things. The whole of this immigration bogey was a very small thing, in spite of what the right hon. Gentleman said, and because of this small matter he proposed to interfere with the transmigrant trade of this country, worth many millions per annum. All the foreign agents were now pointing out the difficulties that would be put in the way of these transmigrants in England in the future as a reason why they should ship direct to foreign countries. Having sat through this discussion he was convinced, as everybody who had listened to the debate must be convinced, that the Government, in regard to this matter, was taking a very serious step which, if persisted in, was going to bring those interested in shipping into immense difficulties. He asked that this stage of the Bill should be further postponed.

*MR. MARTIN (Worcestershire, Droitwich) was understood to say that he thought a great deal too much had been made by certain Members of the examination to which it was proposed to subject alien immigrants. A medical man could easily pass a number of these people in a very few moments. Perhaps fifty of those arriving by a particular ship would not require looking at, and others would need only a very casual inspection. In regard to the inspection chamber—which he thought a proper word to employ—all that was needed was a very small shed, with a doctor's cell attached, and it would not cost £50 to build one.

MR. RUNCIMAN asked whether the depots were to be put up at the cost of the shipowners, and if that was not the fact at whose cost were they to be put up.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that, in nearly every case, in the great ports of this country to which these ships came these places already existed, and they could be used without expense. The Government did not intend to bear the cost of erecting buildings. He had said over and over again that any buildings erected would not be at the public cost, and that if it were at the cost of anybody it would be at the cost of the shipowners who engaged in this trade, and who therefore must bear the expenditure.

MR. RUNCIMAN said, then, it was the fact that these depots were to be erected at the cost of the shipowners.

MR. AKERS - DOUGLAS: Where necessary.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Where necessary. The hon. Gentleman opposite said that was a paltry matter, but if he knew anything about the value of real property he would know that the purchase of riverside property was not a paltry matter. And in regard to the manner in which passengers are to be examined under this Act that was not so easy a matter as the hon. Gentleman seemed to imagine. They were going to be examined to see not so much whether they were suffering from disease, but whether they were lunatics or idiots, and he could assure the hon. Gentleman that that was sometimes a very difficult matter. Not only were immigrants to be examined as to their physical and mental state, but also as to the extent of their finances, and when a man was endeavouring to get into this country with very little money in his pocket, and it was probably the sole outlet he had for his energy and his hope for the future, he would not be too ready to facilitate the operations of the inspecting officer. Every step in that examination would lead to delay, and delay to those engaged in shipping was by no means a paltry matter. The demurrage on some of the vessels engaged in that trade might be anything up to £500 a day. The shippers engaged in the trade would be very wise to consider the regulations which the Home Secretary had outlined very roughly and see whether they were not laying upon themselves a burden which would be a most serious obstacle to the successful conduct of their business.

MR. RENWICK (Newcastle on-Tyne) desired to say a word as a shipowner and as representing the short-sea traders of London, who carried practically 50 per cent. of the trade of the Port of London. They approved of the objects of the Bill, but differed with respect to some of its provisions. He frankly admitted that shipowners would prefer to see the examination carried out on shore, and if the Home Secretary was prepared to grant the option—as he understood him to be—of having the examination on shore, many of the difficulties would disappear. The moment the Bill became law every shipowner who carried passengers would exercise care to prevent undesirables coming in, and the different agents abroad would receive instructions to do the same. The Bill already provided, he believed, that where the examination had been satisfactorily made abroad it would be accepted here as sufficient. There would be no difficulty in passing the desirable or healthy immigrant. Moreover, so far as London was concerned, nearly the whole of the so-called immigrant traffic was carried by foreign ships, and that was doubtless the reason hon. Members opposite were so anxious to secure all these safeguards; they always desired to protect the foreigner. The Committee need not fear to accept the assurance of the Home Secretary that every facility would be given for the examination to be carried out on shore.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE was surprised that the hon. Member for Newcastle should have backed up the amazing statement of the hon. Member beside him as to the rate at which these examinations would take place. How anybody could suppose that 400 immigrants could be examined in an hour, and the necessary information obtained as to their character and health, he could not conceive, and hon. Members who made such statements could not have considered the nature of the questions to be put.

*Major EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said the primary object of the speeches of the Opposition was obviously to stir up the animosity of shipowners against the measure. Speaking as one who had gone carefully into the matter, especially as it affected London, he could assure the Committee that the traffic was mainly carried in foreign bottoms.

Mr. EMMOTT: Have you figures to support that statement?

*Major EVANS GORDON: Yes.

Mr. EMMOTT: Are there any official figures?

*Major EVANS GORDON said that if the hon. Member so desired he could see the lists sent by the Customs officials to the Board of Trade, giving the names of the ships, the owners, the passengers carried, and the destination, and he would see that nearly the whole were foreign ships. As to the examination, wholly imaginary difficulties had been set up. It should not be forgotten that inspection was carried on at present by a medical officer and a Customs officer. He had been present at those examinations, and hon. Members would be surprised at the amount of information that was obtained.

Dr. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye): How long does the examination take?

*Major EVANS GORDON said the time available varied according to the tide. The ships were boarded at Gravesend, and with a favourable tide the time available would be less than if the tide were unfavourable. The present staff would, of course, have to be increased after the passage of this Bill. When the examination officer was unable to board the ship at Gravesend he followed by train to the dock, and, although there was no legal obligation upon them, the shipowners invariably retained their passengers on board until they had been examined by the officer. If shipowners did that without any legal obligation could anybody believe the difficulties suggested by hon. Members opposite would arise? The objections were wholly illusory, and, as he had said, were put forward to stir up the opposition of Unionist shipowners. Then as to the medical examination. He had been on one of these ships where a close medical examination took place, and the passengers offered no objection whatever. A cabin was placed at their disposal, and a sufficiently close examination was made to show which of the passengers was suffering from any serious disease. He had been on board a ship upon which there were eighty-five immigrants and three medical officers examined them thoroughly within an hour while the ship was coming up from Gravesend to the dock. All the objections made by hon. Members opposite were wholly illusory, and he believed that they were put forward with the sole object of stirring up shipowners on the Unionist Benches against the Bill. He had placed at the disposal of the Committee such knowledge as he had been able to acquire upon this subject, and he trusted that what he had said would set at rest any doubts as to the practicability of this proposal.

Dr. HUTCHINSON said that the statement they had just listened to was one of the most extraordinary medical histories it had been his lot to hear. Here were eighty-five people examined thoroughly with stethoscopes in sixty minutes, which gave three-quarters of a minute to each patient, and they were asked to believe that this was the sort of examination which completely eliminated any man with disease. Anyone who knew the mere A B C of this question must know that thoroughly to examine anybody needed a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, and even then it was a perfunctory examination. He had examined some of these immigrants three or four weeks ago, and when an hon. and gallant Member told him that three doctors examined eighty-five people in an hour——

*Major EVANS GORDON said on this occasion they boarded this ship and examined the immigrants. They boarded every ship that carried immigrants.

Dr. HUTCHINSON said that showed it was a show case. They heard the hon. and gallant Member was coming and three medical men put their stethoscopes in their pockets and boarded this ship. This was the sort of picture put before the House to make them think the same kind of thing was going on every day. The true facts of the case had not been brought before them, and he hoped, when the question of these diseased immigrants was raised, he might have a few words to say which would not be so melodramatic as those of the hon. and gallant Gentleman.

Mr. LOUGH said the hon. and gallant Member had not touched the Amendment at all. The object of his Amendment was to secure that there should be no difficulty imposed in the way of clearing the ship when she came to the dock. Some hon. Members opposite said that they agreed in principle with his Amendment, but in their opinion it was brought in at the wrong place. In case one or two of the eighty-five immigrants alluded to by the hon. Member opposite had been condemned they would not have been detained upon the ship. Therefore, accommodation ought to be provided on shore so that the ship might be cleared and these people might be run into the compound or hospital on shore. He did not think it was fair to charge them with pursuing merely Party tactics because they were trying to improve the Bill. If the Committee accepted this new principle it ought to be done in such a way as would not interfere in any way with the carrying on of the shipping industry. He did not think that a single word had been said against the principle of his Amendment.

Major EVANS GORDON said that in the case he had mentioned there was one doctor and two medical officers of the Port of London on board. He did not think there was anything very unusual in the fact that they had such a thing as a stethoscope in their pockets.

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE said that there was a most essential distinction between an examination conducted for the special purpose of enforcing an Act of Parliament and an examination of a more or less amateurish character. An examination of the former character involved considerable legal consequences, and therefore each person should have the full right to have his case gone into in a thorough manner. The argument of the hon. and gallant Gentleman was absolutely worthless.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Stepney was a great authority on this subject, but the hon. Member for Liverpool, who was also a great authority on the subject, took an entirely different view from him of the importance of the examination and of the place necessary for carrying on the examination. The hon. Member for Liverpool was perfectly clear in his statement that an elaborate establishment for carrying on the examination of the aliens who came here would be required, but the hon. and gallant Gentleman said that the whole thing could be done while the ship was coming up the river. Might he point out that there were some ports in this country where there would be no convenient facilities for the medical officers going on board. He would like to point out to the Committee that where a ship had landed any immigrant because he had appealed against the decision of the examiner or was ill, and so was left behind, he would have to be accommodated somewhere. He could not be accommodated on the open quay. He might have to wait several nights pending a final decision of his case, and decent accommodation ought to be provided. He asked the Home Secretary whether that sleeping accommodation was to be provided at the cost of the shipping companies or not. He did most seriously point out that the speech of the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite had not in any way minimised the substantial point raised by the hon. Member for Liverpool that an establishment of an elaborate character for examinations would have to be erected, together with facilities for sleeping. He had only one other point to make. The hon. Member for the Droitwich Division made a remark which called forth some protest. He used the expression "inspection chamber" for, said the hon. Member. that was an expression commonly used in regard to sewage, and he thought that it was an appropriate expression to apply to aliens. It should never be forgotten, however, that although those persons who came to our shores might be poor, diseased, or insane, nevertheless they were human beings; and he was quite sure that the use of such improper language was to be deprecated.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 220 Noes, 171. (Division List No. 214.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHn Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirMichaelHicks
Bintinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T.Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt Hon. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Campbell, Rt Hn JA(Glasgow)
Campbell, JHM (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt HnJ.A.(Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Rt Hon. SirJohn C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole.
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas.
Corbett, A Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir FredDixon
Dorington, Rt Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W)
Fellowes, RtHnAilwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn SirJ.(Manc'r.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj. Evans(T'r. H'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D.(Wednesbury
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, Marq. of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, ArthurHoward (Hanley
Heath, Sir James(Staffords. NW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford, W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F. (Sheffield Brightside
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, Hn E L W. (Mile End)
Lee, Arthur H.(Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt Hn Walter(Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Iver, Sir Lewis (EdinburghW
M‘Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, RtHn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H(Dumfriesshire
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Milner, Rt Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw.(Fermanagh, N.)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan, David J (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer

Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. (Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew)
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, Rt Hn J Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward Jas (Somerset
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn J G (Ox 'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C E H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W H (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia,

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H
Henderson, Arthur (Durham.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath, N.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendal
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John, (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton

Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S.M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj. J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn CR (Northants
Stanhope, Hn. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radclifte)
Tennant, Harold John
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath North)
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Lough and Mr. Eugene Wason.

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

RATHMINES AND RATHGAR EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT BILL (BY ORDER).

[Third Reading.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. MOONEY (Dublin County, S.) said the Bill, if it passed, would throw an onerous burden on a body of ratepayers who had no idea in giving their sanction to it of the liability with which they were saddling themselves. The full weight of the Government majority had been exerted to carry the Second Reading, and on that occasion he had heard the greatest collection of inaccurate and misleading statements that could have been made. He not only still held the objections he had expressed in the first instance on the question of extension, but the additions which had been made in Committee gave rise to further objections. Every single allegation which had been made by the Attorney-General with regard to the Bill and with regard to the District Council of Terenure being taken in by the Rathmines Council had been proved absolutely inaccurate. The right hon. Gentleman had stated, amongst other things, that the district had no water of its own, no lighting, and no outlet for its sewage. It was proved before the Committee that the district had an advantageous contract with the water authority, the Dublin Corporation, by which it was able to supply Terenure with water at a cheaper price than it could get it under the new Bill. It was also proved that the lighting was quite sufficient for the wants of the district. The right hon. Gentleman also stated that the district was not able to carry off its sewage and were infringing the rights of the Rathmines authority but he forgot to state that Rathmines opposed the using of their sewers on the extraordinary ground that they were not able to carry off all their own sewage, let alone that of the Terenure district.

The Bill had been promoted by Rathmines and Pembroke against the will of the majority of the people, and Pembroke had since discovered that under a clause to which they had never agreed, and on which they had not been consulted, they were to be saddled at the end of five years with a capital expenditure of £110,000, at the lowest estimate, for the establishment of a main-drainage board and drainage stations. Further, he had this objection: in 1900, when the Dublin Corporation brought their Bill before the House, the matter was considered by a Joint Committee of both Houses, which reported unanimously that it would be to the public advantage if there were one administration to control the drainage, and they recommended a joint drainage board for the city, and for Rathmines and Pembroke. Notwithstanding this Report, however, the Bill proposed to set aside that recommendation altogether, and it allowed Rathmines for five years to destroy all the work and all the money that had been expended by the citizens of Dublin in purifying the Liffey, by allowing them to discharge sewage into Dublin Bay. He submitted that the Bill was obtained by misrepresentation, and the Second Reading was allowed through the misleading statements of the Attorney-General; and, that being so, and for the reasons he had given, he moved that the Bill be read a third time that day three months.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he seconded the Motion of his hon. friend the Member for South Dublin. The Attorney-General, who was acquainted with the whole of the phases of the Local Government Act, must be aware of the fact that at the present moment there was a great difficulty existing with regard to the disposal of sewage, about which some legislation would have to be passed. On broad principles he was opposed to this Bill. The corporation of Dublin, of which he was a member, opposed it, and the Dublin County Council strongly opposed it. When it was before the Committee the witnesses of the Dublin County Council were not heard, but were dismissed in the most summary manner. The Port and Docks Board, of which he was a member, also opposed it. He was quite aware that an agreement had now been come to which would satisfy the Port and Docks Board, but it was exceedingly doubtful whether that agreement could ever be carried out, involving as it did considerable expense and technical difficulties which it was almost impossible to overcome. The majority of the inhabitants of the districts interested were entirely opposed to it.

He was strongly of opinion that the Second Reading of this Bill had been obtained by an infraction of the rules which were supposed to govern the passing of Bills of this description, which were not of a political nature. He had always understood that the Government did not interfere in any way in the passage of such Bills, but the Attorney-General had made this a Party question pure and simple, because he said in his speech it was best to ask the House to decide between the parties, and that the only intervention he made on behalf of the Government was to say that in the present stage of the controversy this was a matter which should go to a tribunal which would investigate the matter and hear the opinion of all the local bodies. In consequence of that statement by the Attorney-General the normal majority of the Conservatives in the House was represented in the division that took place. He was informed also that a special whip was sent out in order to carry the Second Reading of the Bill, and the position now, so far as he could see, was that this House presumed to dictate to the majority of the inhabitants of these districts the course that should be taken. On behalf of the Dublin County Council he protested in the strongest possible manner against the way in which this Bill had been engineered, and submitted that it was not expedient for this House to pass this Bill against the expressed wish of the rural district council, which opposed the Bill when it was in Committee, and which also opposed its Third Reading. If this Bill passed it would take away a very large and important area from the jurisdiction of the county council.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Mooney.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question.'"

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said the district proposed to be incorporated had time after time appealed to the rural district council and the board of guardians to provide a sewage system, water and light, and look after their streets, but had appealed in vain. They did at length get some supply of water from the Corporation of Dublin and Rathmines, but, as to sewage, the state of affairs was such that the people had to take the law into their own hands and join their sewers with those of the Rathmines and Pembroke Board without its consent. The board obtained an injunction, but they never put it into force. The people failed to get any relief from the rural district council, and ultimately came to the Rathmines District Council, who, realising the danger to themselves, undertook to construct a drainage system and supply them with water and electric light, and promoted a Bill for the purpose. It was said the people did not want the Bill, but before the Committee five of the inhabitants were examined in favour of it and one against it. The Dublin Corporation were providing a drainage system, but nobody knew whether it would prove effective or not, and it was idle to talk of delay for five years. At the end of the five years the corporation might find that they had expended the money of the ratepayers without getting any real relief. It was decided that after five years the sewage of Rathmines and Pembroke should be treated in a certain way, so as not to send sewage into the mouth of the River Liffey. There was a special section of the Act enabling the Rathmines and Pembroke Board to agree with the Corporation of Dublin as to any other mode of treating the sewage which came from Rathmines and Pembroke.

The Second Reading of this Bill had been carried by a majority of about sixty. Before the Select Committee all interested parties were heard by counsel, and witnesses were called and the inquiry lasted eight days. All matters of detail were threshed out, and the Committee arrived at certain conclusions. Was the House of Commons, upon a Motion of this kind, going to refuse to pass the Third Reading of this Bill and thus stultify the action of their own Committee? By so doing the House would be declaring that the Select Committee had failed to discharge its duty and had been unfaithful to its trust. This was a Bill to improve a small district which asked for it, and at whose request the Bill was mainly promoted. It would have been open to those who were now opposing the Bill to have placed their case before the Select Committee, but they did not do so, and why should these objections be brought forward now? The objections which had been raised did not at all justify the rejection of this measure. If the Bill was sent to the other House those objections might be dealt with there. Pembroke had called a meeting which was to be held for the purpose of approving what had been done by the Select Committee. The hon. Member for South Dublin either did not know that or he did not state it to the House. Had the hon. Member any authority from the Urban District Council of Pembroke for the course he had taken? He might be able to support his case with a few dissatisfied individuals, for there would always be found a few cranks, and it was their views that the hon. Member was putting forward. The body that represented Pembroke and who knew all about its requirements had not instructed anyone to say a word against this measure, and a special meeting had been called for the purpose of passing a resolution approving of everything that had been done. With regard to Rathmines, they had their political convictions and they were Unionists, but they never allowed politics to interfere with their local affairs, and that was the reason why Rathmines was a well-managed place. The people of the districts concerned were anxious that this Bill should pass. The Corporation of Dublin and a few cranks were opposed to the measure, but beyond that there was no opposition to the Bill. If those who were opposing the measure had any case they could state their objections before the Committee of the House of Lords.

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin Harbour) said the hon. Member who had just sat down had neither been just to himself nor respectful to the House, because he had made no effort to obtain any knowledge of the subject upon which he had been speaking. There was not a single material statement made by the hon. Member that was not absolutely inaccurate. He was present at the inquiry and heard the evidence and had since read it over, and if the hon. Member for Londonderry would only read that evidence he would find that there was scarcely a page of the evidence which would not make him ashamed of the statement which he had just made. The hon. Member said that this district had applied to the district council for lighting, and had applied in vain. That was not so. He also said that they applied for a water supply a long time before they could get it. As a matter of fact the district had possessed a water supply for the last thirty years, and it had been well lighted for a long period. With regard to the opposition of the Corporation of Dublin, he wished to point out that Dublin had spent over half a millon of money on its main drainage in order to keep the sewage out of the River Liffey, and their only anxiety was to see that this vast expenditure of money should not be thrown away by these two townships being allowed to run their sewage into the Liffey. The singular thing was that while protection was given to the Port and Docks Board no power or initiative whatever was given to the Corporation of Dublin in regard to this matter. The two urban districts of Rathmines and Pembroke had a joint main-drainage board, and they paid £200 a year to the Port and Docks Board for allowing their system of sewage to enter the river. This was simply paid as compensation for the additional dredging that might be necessary, and there was no question of sanitation or the health of the district taken into account at that time. There was a clause in the Bill which still left it in the power of the Port and Docks Board to make arrangements with the Main-Drainage Board of Rathmines and Pembroke by which they could get an additional rent and thus be permitted for all time to allow this pollution of the River Liffey to continue. The Corporation of Dublin were the sanitary authority for the Liffey, and they desired to be able to put a stop to this pollution of the river.

There were two proposals placed before the Committee. One was that they should drain into the Rathmines system, and the penalty was that they should be annexed to Rathmines. The other was that they should drain into the system of the Corporation of Dublin, and for £100 a year the corporation were willing to treat all their sewage. The Committee rejected that and accepted the proposal that involved annexation, against the consent of the majority of the people who were taken over. Before the Committee the clerk of the district council was examined, and he stated that circulars had been issued, and the result was that the replies he received showed a majority of five or six to one against annexation. He had never known a Committee of the House give effect to its opinions in a more ineffective manner. One of the clauses of the Bill introduced an absolutely new and vicious principle by putting upon a body of ratepayers a heavy charge with respect to which they had never been consulted. He complained that though the Corporation of Dublin, before the promotion of the Bill, had bound themselves to supply water to this district, which was to be added to Rathmines, at the same rate at which water was supplied in the city, the Bill had emanated from the Committee without a word of protection for the corporation as water sellers. This Bill gave power to charge 1s. 1d. for water. Now was it at all likely that the people who were getting water from the Dublin Corporation at 3d. would continue taking the Dublin supply when they would be obliged to pay four times as much even if they had no supply at all from the new authority? He thought proper compensation ought to have been made to the Corporation of Dublin for the loss of these privileges.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud) speaking as a member of the Committee, said the main proposal, and really the only one before the Committee, was that for the annexation of the Rathmines and Rathgar Urban District Council. This was opposed on general grounds by the county council, the South Dublin District Council, and the corporation, and by the Port and Harbour Board on drainage grounds. Personally, he thought it a very arguable point whether the added district ought not to be a portion of the City of Dublin, but that point was not before the Committee. He believed, also, that the majority of the people in the added district were not in favour of annexation. But on questions of local annexation Parliament had never admitted that the wishes of the people of the district proposed to be annexed should be absolutely final. The Committee were advised that the principle of outgrowth and community of interest had often been allowed to override the present wishes of inhabitants. That being so, the Committee felt themselves free to look to the future needs of the added district. They found that it was rapidly changing to an urban character similar to that of Rathmines, that it had no drainage system, that its scavenging was bad, and they were not favourably impressed with the evidence they had of its local government, and they came to the conclusion that it should not be left as it was. They thought good government was certain if the district was added to Rathmines, whereas it was only a possibility if left alone. As to the drainage, much of the sewage went into a pipe belonging to the Rathmines district, and thence through the Rathmines sewer into the Liffey in an absolutely crude and untreated condition. The Committee, therefore, decided that the annexation should take place only on the condition that the sewage of Rathmines and the added district was properly treated, and consequently they had to go beyond the four corners of the Bill. They felt, however, that the good they were doing by preventing this crude sewage going into the Liffey warranted them in asking the House of Commons to support their action. If Pembroke felt itself aggrieved it had a perfect right to go before the House of Lords Committee. The Committee were unanimous in their conclusion; it was a common-sense decision, which he hoped the House would approve.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said that when the Bill came up for Second Reading he made no representations as to the facts of the case; he simply pointed out the contentions of the respective parties, submitted that the House of Commons was not the proper tribunal to decide the questions of difference, and asked that the Bill should be allowed to go before the constitutional body for dealing with such matters, viz., a Committee of this House. The Bill had been before that tribunal and an unanimous decision given. He failed to understand the contention of hon. Members, or why they should attempt to upset the decision of a properly qualified and impartial tribunal, arrived at after hearing evidence from all parties concerned, simply because that decision did not happen to be that which hon. Members desired. No attempt had been made to impeach the honesty, capacity, or fairness of the Committee. Did hon. Members suggest that the corporation had any power to prevent Rathmines from discharging crude sewage into the Liffey, or that they would have it under their main-drainage scheme?

MR. T. HARRINGTON said the whole of their contention was that there was no power to prevent it, and that the corporation, after spending half a million of money on their main drainage, would still be without that power.

MR. ATKINSON said the price the Rathmines township had to pay for the addition of this district was that within five years they must adopt a scheme under which they would no longer discharge their crude sewage into the Liffey.

MR. T. HARRINGTON: But it is not mandatory.

MR. ATKINSON said that if the clauses of the Bill were inadequate the proper course of the opponents of the Bill was to raise the issue before the tribunal which for the first time he had heard hon. Members refer to with such absolute confidence—the House of Lords. The principle which guided this House in regard to private Bills on which a right of appeal to the House of Lords had been reserved was not to allow the decision of the Committee to be overruled unless it could be alleged that the Committee had acted improperly and in bad faith, or that new matter had arisen. No such allegation had been made in this case, and the only interest he had, as representing the Government, was to see that the general rule and practice of Parliament was followed with regard to the Bill before the House.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) said he had heard with astonishment that the Attorney-General was speaking on behalf of the Government in asking the House to pass the Third Reading of this Bill. What they, as representing the City of Dublin, protested against was the omission of the

Committee to insert a mandatory clause protecting the rights of the corporation as regarded water and main drainage. The corporation were carrying out works called for by the Government themselves, involving an expenditure of half a million of money, and yet it would remain possible under this Bill for the Liffey to be made the receptacle of all the sewage that could be turned into it from Rathmines and the new district. They simply asked for common justice, which required the insertion of a mandatory clause under which Rathmines should be compelled so to treat their sewage that it would not cause injury either to the people or to the river.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 224 ; Noes, 109. (Division List No. 215.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt.Sir Alex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn. Sir H.
ailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHn Gerald W.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cawley, Frederick
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A(Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Rt.Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dyke, Rt.Hn.Sir William Hart
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice CaptEC(S.Andrw'sB'ghs
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes,RtHn.AilwynEdward
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
FitzGerald,Sir Robert Penrose
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T'rH'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Green,Walford D.(Wednesbury
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hamilton,Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, SirJames(Staffords.NW
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford,W.)
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Howard John(Kent Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutchinson, Dr.Charles Fredk.
Issacs, Rufus Daniel
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Kennaway,Rt. Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Laurie, Lieut-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph(Monm'th)
Lawson.JohnGrant(Yorks.N.R
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Long, Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(Edinburgh,W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHn Sir H.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw.(Fermanagh,N.)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn.J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan,David J (Walthamstow
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne

Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith H.C.(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tennant, Harold John
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C.E.H(Sheffield
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Welby Lt.-Col. A.C.E.(Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und. Lyne
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E.R(Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. John Gordon and Mr. Sloan.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway)
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander(Lanark, NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath, N.
Kilbride, Denis
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway. N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, Thomas
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Seely, Maj. J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer Rt. Hn. C.R.(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wood, James
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Mooney and Mr. Field.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

BANGOR (COUNTY DOWN) WATER AND IMPROVEMNT BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Read a second time, and committed.

MR. WOOD (Down, E.) moved—"That it be an Instruction to the Committee to insert a clause for the protection of James M. Thomson or other the owner for the time being of the property known as Martello, providing that nothing in the Act shall empower the council to interfere with any right of access from the said property to the seashore, and further providing that nothing in the Act shall authorise the council to erect any buildings on the slopes within a distance of fifty yards from any part of the said property, and that the said portion of the slopes shall not be used for any purposes other than a permanent garden or esplanade." Mr. Thomson appeared before the Committee, but unfortunately he was not represented by counsel. He did not know of any reasonable objection to the adoption of this instruction, which could do the promoters of the Bill no harm, and there were already in the Bill special provisions in regard to other property.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Speak up; we cannot hear a word you are saying.

Mr. WOOD said that when Mr. Thomson built his property he had the assurance of the ground landlord that the slopes would be left open and that no buildings would be erected upon them, and in view of that promise Mr. Thomson erected his buildings. Now it was proposed under this Bill to abolish all those safeguards, and the council of Bangor would be permitted by this Bill to erect any building upon these slopes to the prejudice of Mr. Thomson's property. He begged to move the instruction standing in his name.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to insert a clause for the protection of James M. Thomson or other the owner for the time being of the property known as Martello, providing that nothing in the Act shall empower the council to interfere with any right of access from the said property to the seashore, and further providing that nothing in the Act shall authorise the council to erect any buildings on the slopes within a distance of fifty yards from any part of the said property, and that the said portion of the slopes shall not be used for any purposes other than a permanent garden or esplanade."—*(Mr. Wood.)*

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) thought it would have been better if upon one of the rare appearances of the hon. Member for East Down he had devoted his time and ability to a more worthy cause than opposing a Bill which had been unanimously approved of by the Bangor District Urban Council.

Mr. WOOD said it had not been approved of by a majority of the people of Bangor.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said it had been approved of by the urban council after an election which had taken place upon this very issue.

Mr. WOOD: It is not so.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said Bangor happened to be in his own constituency, and he happened to know a little more about it than the hon. Member. He repeated, without fear of contradiction, except from the hon. Member opposite, that this Bill was unanimously approved of by the Urban District Council of Bangor after an election which took place upon the very issues involved in this Bill. This was an omnibus Bill dealing with the water and gas supply, road widening, and the provision of a recreation ground in the prosperous and growing town of Bangor. It seemed to him absolutely absurd that the House should be asked to discuss one small item like this instruction, and he should be merely wasting the time of the House if he attempted to deal with it. This particular case had already been considered by a Committee of the House of Lords, and had the hon. Member wished he could have brought it before the Committee of the House of Commons by petition. He was sure that the House would agree with him in saying that for them to discuss a minute detail of this kind would be a pure waste of time.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said that at the risk of being charged with wasting the time of the House he would venture to say a few words upon this point. He hoped it would be noted that they had allowed the Bill to pass its Second Reading without a division. The real question was that a constituent of the hon. Member for East Down thought that part of this Bill would injure him, and as he was not a wealthy man he had not been able to have his case presented by counsel. He appeared before the Committee of the House of Lords, and they were so impressed by his case that they put in a clause to protect his interests, but his contention was that this clause did not protect his interests, and the hon. Member opposite wished that the case which was admitted by the Lords should go to the Committee of the House of Commons with the direction that this man's interests should be seen to. Why should the hon. Member for North Down object to that? This man's property might be ruined by something which this urban council might do. Was it to be left to him now to protect the rights of the landlords? The House of Lords had admitted the justice of this man's claim, and he desired to come before the Committee of the House of Commons. Consequently the hon. Member for East Down thought an instruction should be passed to this effect. Although this was only the case of an individual, he could assure the hon. Member for North Down that great constitutional questions had been fought over the rights of a single individual.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) expressed the view that the matter had better be left entirely to the Committee which dealt with the Bill.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 125; Noes, 223. (Division List No. 216.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Buxton, NE(York,NR,Whitby)
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, CaptEC(S.Andrw's Bghs
Evans,SirFrancisH (Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alexander(Lanark,NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Michael(Lond.Univ.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Micheal
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath,N.
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mitchell, Edw.(Fermanagh,N.)
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Rose, Charles Day
Seely, Maj.J. EB.(Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Slack, John Bamford
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Wood and Mr. T. W. Russell.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt.Sir Alex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P.
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHn.HughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Benn, John Williams
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Brymer, William Ernest
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Bull, William James
Buxton, SydneyCharles(Poplar
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cawley, Frederick
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt.Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt.Hn. Sir WilliamHart
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes RtHn.AilwynEdward
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, WalfordD.(Wednesbury
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, SirJames(Staffords.NW
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford,W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir JohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Lamont, Norman
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Law, Hugh Alex.(Donegal,W.)
Lawrence, SirJoseph(Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson, JohnGrant(Yorks.N.R
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn. Walter(Bristol,S)
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Crae, George
M'Iver, SirLewis(Edinburgh,W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSir H.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H (Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Milner, Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Peel, Hn.Wm.RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col.Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,H.C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Welby Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton

Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Thomas Corbett and Mr. Sloan.

ALIENS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) moved an Amendment to provide that an immigrant should not be prevented from landing in the United Kingdom at ports where there was no immigration board under the Act. The object of this was to alter the proposals of the Bill with regard to those ports where the Home Office did not appoint an immigration board. There would be under the Bill two classes of ports. One would have immigrant officers, and aliens would be able to come in subject to examination by those officers. There would be other ports where no aliens could come in at all. The question he now raised was whether the ports where there were no officers were to be free or closed ports. His objection to the proposals in the Bill was that those ports where there were no immigrant officers would be penalised as compared with their competitors. The Home Secretary had stated that he could not tell exactly just yet what ports would have immigration officers, but he had indicated that at any rate the following were likely to be included in the list: London, Southampton, Newhaven, Hull, Grimsby, Leith, the Tyne ports, and Liverpool. The result of appointing immigration officers at these ports would be that at the neighbouring ports no alien would be able to come in for the purpose of landing in this country, or for the purpose of transmigration. Newhaven would be able to carry on a trade with transmigrants, but Folkestone and Dover would not be permitted to do so. Hull and Grimsby would be able to carry on that trade, but Goole would not be able to do so. Leith would be able to receive immigrants, while Grangemouth would not be able to do so. They had been told by the hon. Member for the Ayr Burghs that the shipping trade at Grangemouth did carry on a transmigration traffic at present. Why not let these be free ports, and, if any large number of aliens came in through them, it would be perfectly open to the Home Secretary in a month or two to place any port on the list and to appoint immigration officers. It would be impossible for any transmigration traffic to arise in the ports not scheduled in the Bill, even though they should become the natural ports for that traffic. The Committee were told by the hon. Member for Newcastle that in a great many cases the ships which brought aliens to this country were owned by foreigners. Supposing that at one of the ports not scheduled by the Home Secretary a British shipowner desired to start this trade, they were going to make it impossible for him to do so. The truth was that the promoters of this Bill cared nothing for shipping. They professed, through the mouth of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, to bring in the Bill for the purpose of protecting the working classes——

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: We are all interested in shipping.

MR. TREVELYAN said there were no sailors in Birmingham or Sheffield. They had heard from the Attorney-General that no transmigrants were to come in at the ports where there were no immigration officers. That was a very unwise regulation, and they would do far better to leave all ports open, except those where officers were appointed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word 'landed,' and insert the words 'prevented from landing'—(*Mr. Trevelyan*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the word 'landed' stand part of the clause."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said he did not entirely disagree with the argument of the hon. Member. He thought the Bill now provided very largely for what the hon. Member desired. If a transmigrant trade tended to any port, the Government would be ready to enable that port to receive the trade. What the hon. Member desired was that all ports should be open, and that we should have machinery in every port for dealing with immigrants. They could not have that because of the enormous expense which would be incurred in setting up machinery at every port. It would be far better to publish in the *Gazette*, or through an ordinary notice, at what ports they intended in the first instance to set up machinery, and then, as it was found necessary afterwards to increase the number of ports, to set up machinery wherever they found a tendency to a transmigrant trade. There was no hardship in the point suggested, for the Bill was intended to regulate wholesale immigration. They could not stop the individual alien.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham): Where an alien is refused at a scheduled port, could he not come in as one of a small number at an unscheduled port?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that they were dealing with the wholesale immigration trade in the Bill.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham): Supposing an alien is rejected at one of the ports, could not the shipping company take him along the coast and get him entered through another port?

MAJOR SEELY said it was being admitted that it was impossible to keep out the alien, and he maintained that the whole of the immigration of the last ten years could be overtaken in one month by the process of "infiltration" recognised by the Bill. He would appeal to the Committee as reasonable men whether, apart from any question of Party, it had not been proved that the only thing they could do was, under Clause 3, to expel an alien if he committed "any felony, or misdemeanour, or other offence for which the Court has power to impose imprisonment without the option of a fine." The Bill was directed against bringing in aliens in bulk, and that meant twenty or more at a time. Therefore, aliens could be imported to the number of nineteen at a time. He knew that the Bill was introduced in good faith by the right hon. Gentleman, but if the importation of aliens could still go on by "infiltration" the Bill was nothing less than a farce. The only way of dealing with the alien problem was to follow the advice of the responsible authorities, and expel aliens who were convicted of offences. On the right hon. Gentleman's own showing there would be "infiltration" through other than the scheduled ports, and that alien immigrants could come in nineteen at a time. He, therefore, asked him whether it would not be possible to pass Clause 3 and drop the rest of the Bill.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said he thought that the hon. and gallant Gentleman did not appear to have read the Bill, or he could not have made so many mistakes in his speech. The Home Secretary had said at least a dozen times that there was to be no schedule of ports; and, in the second place, the power as to the number of immigrants admitted was vested in the Home Secretary, who could vary the number if he found it desirable. The owners of the lines of vessels which brought such passengers would find it essential in their own interests to establish a most effective scrutiny at the port of embarkation, and the whole thing would work without any of the difficulty which had been conjured up by the hon. and gallant Gentleman.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said that under this Bill the bulk traffic in immigrants would be effectually put a stop to, but that was the part of the trade with which they did not want to meddle. They did not want to touch the through traffic, yet now the Attorney-General said that through-transit trade would be effectively checked.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said that hon. Gentlemen ought to know that the transmigrant trade was not subject to the conditions of the Bill.

Mr. McKENNA said what he ventured to propose was that the vast mass of the trade consisted of transmigrant aliens, and that the Bill really provided for steps being taken to harass the transmigrant trade, whereas, in the individual trade, lunatics, and other undesirables, were people who did not come here in bulk. These were the people whom it was evidently not now the intention of the Government to keep out of the country, although the Prime Minister had told them recently that that was the sole object of the Government. He asked the hon. Gentlemen who represented the East End of London to give the Committee their views on the question. Were they satisfied that criminals, lunatics, and other undesirables were not going to be kept out of the country? Whatever the intentions of the authors of the Bill might be, the machinery was altogether so defective as to make this clause valueless.

*Mr. PEEL (Manchester, S.) said that the hon. and gallant Member for the Isle of Wight had declared that nothing could be easier than for an immigrant ship to pass the scheduled ports and carry the immigrants round to a free port. His contention was that that would be an offence under the Act. It was unlikely that any shipowner would run the risk of a fine of £100, which was provided by the Bill, in order to carry to a free port an immigrant who was not allowed to land at a scheduled port. He had already said in the course of the discussion that the number of twenty was far too high; but it was perfectly obvious that if it appeared that the law was being evaded and that aliens were being brought in at free ports nothing would be easier than for the Home Secretary to limit the number to less than twenty, and to set up a new schedule of ports. In both cases the machinery of the Bill provided a remedy.

*Mr. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said that the object at which they all aimed in supporting a Bill of this character was to keep out the undesirable alien, but that object would not be attained unless the clause were amended. For example, if these immigrants were not allowed to land in bulk at scheduled ports on the Tyne, they could come in at ports on the Tees, a few miles down the coast, in small groups of three or four, up to nineteen; and from these Tees ports they could readily reach the large industrial towns.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Elland was roughly whether they should express themselves in regard to this Bill affirmately or negatively—whether aliens should not be allowed to land except at scheduled ports, or whether they should be allowed to land at any other ports. The Amendment raised the clear issue whether there should be ports in this country which would be known as free ports. The hon. Gentleman opposite did very little to clear up the difficulty under which the Committee was labouring. By the admission of the Home Secretary the following case might occur: a ship with 300 immigrants on board arrived at a scheduled port, 285 passed the various tests, and were allowed to land and go forward as transmigrants, while the fifteen who were rejected simply went on to another port in another ship in possession of the same line of steamers, and got in there. He submitted to the Home Secretary that the machinery he was setting up would result in the residuum of immigrants rejected at any one of the specified ports going on to other potrs not scheduled, and landing there with perfect impunity. This was really only the first of two Bills that were required. An Aliens Filtration Bill would have to follow in order to fill up the gaps with which this Bill did not deal. He had always heard that it was a maxim of the legal profession which the right hon. Gentleman opposite adorned that when you had no case you should abuse the other attorney. It was on that ground, he supposed, that the Attorney-General had accused the hon, and gallant Member for the Isle of Wight of not having read the Bill. They were told that if the shipping companies were squeezed enough they would put all sorts of illegal, or a any rate irregular, pressure on aliens at the port of embarkation. They were able to tie up the Government of the country to prescribe the conditions under which these people were to come here; but it was not for the House of Commons to say that any private companies would be entitled to encourage the practices he had referred to.

*Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said it seemed to him perfectly obvious that any man from Germany, or Roumania, or elsewhere who was anxious to come to England, and who was rejected at one of the specified ports, would take the first available opportunity of going to another, say in a cattle boat, to a port where there was no immigration officer. If that could be done, it seemed to him that the whole scheme of the Bill was useless. The Home Secretary said that the Bill would not interfere with the development of the transmigrant trade, but how could that argument be advanced by a responsible Minister when shipowners were told that they must not land passengers except at eight specified ports? Take the case of Middlesborough. That port might be found suitable for the transmigration trade, but it would be impossible to foster that trade there because the Home Secretary had not set up machinery for it.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said that if, as was curiously contended by hon. Gentlemen opposite, the meshes of the Bill were too wide, it would be easy under the machinery created by the Bill to make the meshes narrow enough to catch the individual. Under the regulations of the Bill it was perfectly possible to specify the number of passengers which went to make it an immigrant ship. He welcomed the fact that the Government had not thought to go too strongly in their treatment of this subject. He thought it was far better that they should take the main lines of immigration and deal with them by adequate machinery. As one who, in the main, supported the Bill, he welcomed its elasticity and the desire of the Government to go gradually. As to the question of the transmigrant trade, it was perfectly true that that trade was an object of great solicitude to shipowners; but the Government had put down an Amendment on the Paper which practically gave the Home Secretary power to take the transmigrant trade out of the scope of the Bill. All holders of through tickets would be exempted by that Amendment.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) asked if his hon. friend suggested that there were no transmigrant immigrants who did not hold through tickets.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that an immigrant who spent a few weeks in this country and then rebooked to the United States was certainly a transmigrant immigrant; but, so far as the shipping companies were concerned, they were content to have the through booking traffic protected as was proposed by his right hon. friend's Amendment. As regarded those who were not through booked, he admitted that there were difficulties under the Bill, and that it was quite possible that they might be injured, but that was a matter for further consideration.

Mr. GUEST said that surely the result of the debate had been to show that the machinery devised in the Bill made it impossible to obtain the ends desired. The Bill would stop, or at any rate injure, the perfectly legitimate trade which it ought to be the object of the House to promote.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 28th June, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hythe Corporation Bill [Lords]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Malvern Water Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP I.)

Sir James Woodhouse reported from the Committee on Group I of Private Bills; That the parties opposing the Thames Conservancy Bill had stated that the evidence of Mr. Alfred Brooks, 72, Fenchurch Street, E.C., was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Mr. Alfred Brooks do attend the said Committee on Tuesday next, at Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That Mr. Alfred Brooks do attend the Committee on Group I of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at Eleven of the clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH ORGANISATION AND DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL.

Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Lewis, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition of Sion College, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 23rd June, 1905, declaring that Alfred William Cousins, Royal Laboratory, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act] to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES ACT, 1864.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on an Application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 213.]

RAILWAY COMPANIES POWERS ACT, 1864.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade on an Application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 214.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3426 and 3427 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Postal Deliveries in Townships of Mullinavat, Kilmacow, and Mooncoin.

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the morning mail from Dublin is not delivered in the townships of Mullinavat, Kilmacow, or Mooncoin until late in the afternoon, whereas the train bearing these letters stops at all stations;

and whether, in view of the small extra cost involved, he will have letters for these stations sorted in Dublin or *en route* and delivered on arrival of the morning mail train.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I have made inquiry on the question of establishing an additional service such as that suggested by the hon. Member, but I find that the cost of the existing service is so high that I should not be justified in incurring the expense necessary for meeting the hon. Member's wishes in the matter.

Payment for Sunday Duty on Irish Travelling Post Offices.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster-General if a change is contemplated as regards the payment for Sunday duty on the Irish travelling post offices; and, if so, will he state the nature and scope of such a change.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The question is under consideration; and due notice will be given to the staff should any change be made.

Cheap Labour in Submarine Boat Construction.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether, having regard to the recent accident to a submarine vessel in His Majesty's Navy and to a promise given by him on the 25th April, 1904, that inquiry would be made i to the cheap labour employed in the construction of these vessels, he will now state the result of his inquiry.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The inquiry showed that two labourers had been employed as improvers on work connected with the electric wiring of submarines at a rate less than that current for mechanics. The work done was inspected and found satisfactory.

Treatment of British Subjects in the Congo Free State.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any representations have been addressed by His Majesty's Government to the Sovereign of the Congo State with reference to the administration of that country; and whether His Majesty's Government is satisfied that adequate protection is given to British subjects in the Congo State, since the issue of the circular to the Powers.

(*Answered by Earl Percy.*) No recent complaints have been received in regard to the treatment of British subjects in the Congo, and it is hoped that by the appointment of two British Vice-Consuls, to reside at Leopoldville and Stanleyville respectively, their interests will be under closer supervision than has hitherto been possible.

Swine Fever.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture how many reports of suspected cases of swine fever were received by the Board and how many were confirmed by the officers of the Board, in the years 1904 and 1905, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) In the twenty-five weeks ending June 24th, 1905, 3,507 suspected cases of swine fever were reported, and 390 of these were confirmed. During the corresponding period in 1904 the reported cases numbered 4,398 and the confirmed cases 752.

Increased Postal Facilities for the North of Ireland.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General what would be the extra cost, if any, of an evening mail service via Greenore to London, the Midlands, and South of England.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he has received a resolution from the Omagh Urban District Council praying for an evening mail service via Greenore to London, the Midlands, and South of England; and whether, in view of the fact that this arrangement will confer a great boon upon the towns between Derry and Dundalk, on the Great Northern Railway, and can be carried out without altering existing arrangements, he will grant this concession.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The actual additional cost of the suggested service cannot be stated, but the conveyance of each bag would have to be paid for, and there would also be special expense for bringing the bags from Euston Station to the General Post Office, besides the cost of station service in respect of many of the bags to provincial towns. I have received the resolution from the Omagh Urban District Council referred to in the second Question, but, as the hon. Member is no doubt aware, a considerable improvement is about to be carried out in the service from the North of Ireland to England by way of Larne. As regards the towns between Derry and Dundalk, I am now making inquiry as to the improvement which can be affected.

Discharges of Workmen from Devonport Dockyard.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the undertaking recently given by the Admiralty that the rates of discharges in the Royal dockyards should be limited to twenty-five per week, he will explain why the average discharges at Devonport Yard for some weeks past amount to seventy per week, and that in addition ninety-three men received a week's notice on Friday last to terminate their employment.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) It has been found necessary to increase the average discharges on reduction at Devonport to seventy instead of twenty-five per week as originally intended, as otherwise sufficient work could not be found for economical employment. In addition, ninety-two men received a week's notice on Friday last to terminate their employment, consequent on ninety-two apprentices coming out of their time who are entitled under contract to employment in the yard.

MR. BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in regard to the discharges now taking place at Devonport, in accordance with a recent notice from the Admiralty, that, as apprentices completed their indentures, room was to be made for them by an equivalent dismissal of hired men, his attention has been directed to a system, now introduced for the first time, of selecting for dismissal, from gangs expressly formed for their fitness to carry out special work, experienced men of from thirteen to twenty-five years service, who, but for this new arrangement, would secure such continuity of employment as usually attaches to seniority and ability; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any, and, if any, what action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) In order to ensure that the necessary reductions in numbers borne are actually carried out, it is necessary to provide against automatic increases, such as the entry of apprentices completing their indentures. Under the existing dockyard regulations the Admiralty are under agreement with the apprentices that:—"On coming out of their time, and subject to their good behaviour, they will be entered for a period of two years as journeymen, and will not be discharged during that time." This regulation is not recent, as suggested in the hon. Member's Question; nor would it be economical to discharge apprentices just when their services are beginning to justify the outlay on their training. The selection of men to be discharged is left to the discretion of the dockyard officers. The least efficient men are the first to be discharged, but in course of time, owing to the numbers of discharges necessary, it is inevitable that desirable men come within the scope of the order. Men of the servitude named, however, would have earned a gratuity. It is not proposed to interfere in any way with the discretion of the dockyard officers in carrying out this duty.

Repairs to Fountains in Kensington Gardens.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will state on what date the repairs to the fountains in Kensington Gardens, which are now being again undertaken, were first begun; in what those repairs consisted; when they are likely to be completed; whether the repairs have been carried out by a contractor or by the Office of Works; what was the cost originally estimated; and what is likely to be the actual cost.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The hon. Member is under some misapprehension as to repairs to the fountains in Kensington Gardens "now being again undertaken." All works were completed some three months back. The fountains were started in April of this year, and have continued playing since. The renewal of the deep-well pumps, the removal of old boilers and the supply of new, and the rebuilding of the engines commenced in 1903. It has been necessary to deal with the service in sections. The works have been carried out by contractors, the original cost being estimated at £2,448 and the actual cost being £2,583.

Motor Traffic Regulations in the Royal Parks.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether it is proposed to extend the regulation, closing Hyde Park to motor vehicles between four and seven p.m., to the other Royal Parks.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The reply is in the negative, as there is no proposal before the First Commissioner to extend the regulation.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether, instead of limiting to the hours between four p.m. and seven p.m. as the time during which motor cars are excluded from Hyde Park, he will consider the advisability of excluding them entirely from all public parks under the control of the First Commissioner of Works.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The First Commissioner is not prepared to adopt the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Motor-Car Drivers' Licences.

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state how many licences have been issued to male and female motorists respectively, other than professional chauffeurs.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The only information I have as to the number of licences granted to drivers of motor-cars is that contained in the Parliamentary Return issued last year, from which it appeared that up to April 1st, 1904, 5,152 licences had been granted to drivers of motor-cycles and 35,518 to drivers of motor-cars. The Return, however, does not specify the number of licences given to male and female drivers respectively, or the number given to professionals.

Motor-Car Licences and Regulations.

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the regulations existing in France controlling the issue of licences to chauffeurs, and other matters relating to motor-cars; whether he will consider the advisability of placing similar restrictions on the issue of licences in the United Kingdom; and will he also require licence-holders to have their photographs on their licences, as abroad.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I am aware of the requirements of the French motor-car regulations. The question of amending the present system of issuing licences to motor drivers is one of the subjects that will be considered in the course of the inquiry into the working of the Motor-Car Acts which the Government propose to institute.

Suggested Tax on Motor-Cars.

MR. WEIR: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the expediency of placing a tax on motor-cars on a scale rising in proportion to their horse-power.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Yes, Sir.

Fruit-Preserving Experiments in Drogheda and Portadown.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the industrial concerns for preserving fruit and vegetables, commenced some two years ago by the Department of Agriculture in Drogheda and Portadown, have been closed; and, if so, why has not the experiment of these concerns been carried on for a longer period; whether he can state the expenditure and income respectively of these two enterprises, detailing their respective expenditure for salaries, rents, wages, machinery, materials, and produce purchased, cost of experimental crops, and other expenses incurred; and also of the income received, detailing the several classes of goods sold, and the average price obtained, and the total amount realised for each description, with the value realised for the crops produced; and, if the machinery and implements have been sold, setting out the cost of same and the amount for which they were sold in each case.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have not yet completed my inquiries into the various matters referred to in this Question, and will thank the hon. Member to postpone it until Monday next.

Waveney School, Ballymena.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say if the National Commissioners received a memorial in support of an application for aid to Waveney School, Ballymena; and whether, in view of the signatures attached to the memorial signifying approval of aid being granted to this school, he will request the Commissioners to reconsider their decision in regard to this school.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Several memorials in support of the application for aid to Waveney School were received by the Commissioners. The representations were carefully considered before the Board arrived at the decision refusing recognition to this school. The case has been under consideration more than once, and the Commissioners see no reason to alter their decision.

Decision as to Retention of Lance as Weapon for Lancers and Dragoons.

COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it has been decided to retain the lance as part of the equipment of regiments of Lancers, Dragoon Guards, and Dragoons.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The instructions laid down in Army Order 39 of March, 1903, with regard to the use of the lance, are still in force.

Death Rate in Old Calabar Gaol.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the death rate in the Old Calabar Gaol, where there are always from 400 to 500 prisoners, the majority of whom are crowded into cells at the rate of twenty-six per cell, and where some cells contain no fewer than thirty-five prisoners; and whether, seeing that out of 200 prisoners sent from Asaba in the beginning of last year only five are now alive, and in view of the number of cases of suicides among the prisoners, he will say whether he proposes to take any, and, if so, what, steps in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) My attention has been called to a statement in a newspaper to this effect, and an inquiry is being made into the matter.

Punishment of Chinese Coolies in South Africa.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information as to frequent licking into shape of the Chinese coolies by Chinese policemen, and as to sentences of from five to fifty strokes on the culprit stripped and flung down on his face, one policeman holding his head and another his feet; and, if so, will he say under what law and by whose authority these punishments are inflicted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I have no such information.

Grant of Land to the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Government of Newfoundland paid in 1901 the sum of 850,000 dollars to recover from Mr. R. G. Reid certain lands which had been granted to him by Act of Legislature; and that the same Government is now proposing to grant to the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited, a perpetually renewable lease of a far larger area of land comprising the whole watershed of the Exploits River; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

Mr. NUSSEY (Pontefract): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the Newfoundland Crown Lands Act, 1903, demands a payment of five dollars per square mile for the first year and of three dollars per square mile thereafter for all the lands granted under a ninety-nine years pulp limit lease, and that the perpetually renewable lease now proposed to be granted to the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited, provides for the payment of two dollars per square mile only and expressly exempts the lessees from any payment whatever for swamp and barren lands, he proposes to take any, and, if any, what, action in the matter.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, under the Bill lately passed by the Newfoundland Legislature to confirm a contract made with the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited, for the purpose of utilising the timber resources of the colony in the establishment of pulp and paper industries, the lessees are granted full mineral and quarry rights over an area estimated at 2,100,000 acres, such rights not being necessary for the stated purposes of the contract, and being subject only to a nominal charge of 5 per cent. on the net profits of the sale of precious and other metals, minerals, and mineral substances; and that the lessees are free from the provisions of the existing law as to the verification and proof of accounts by holders of mineral licences; and whether, seeing that the terms of the lease are contrary in these and other respects to the express provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1903, now in force in the colony, he will state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I can only refer the hon. Members to the Answer which I gave on June 22nd† to other Questions on the subject of this contract.

Cost of Transvaal Governor's and Lieutenant-Governor's Establishments.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the fact that, according to the Treasury accounts of the Transvaal Government for the year ending June 30th, 1904, the expenses of the establishments of the Governor and Lieutenant - Governor amounted to a sum of £63,860, in addition to £30,000 set aside for buying a house for the Governor and £40,000 for the building of a house for the Lieutenant-Governor, and that these expenses included such items as £1,535 8s. 8d. for a dance given at the Wanderers Hall, Johannesburg; and whether, having regard to the fact that the establishment of the late President Kruger only involved an annual cost of £7,700, he will call for greater economy in the Transvaal administration until the obligation of the £30,000,000 war contribution has been discharged.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I must remind the hon. Member that His Majesty's Government has elected to treat the new colonies as self-governing colonies in all matters in which Imperial interests are not directly concerned. The items of expenditure referred to clearly fall within the scope of this principle, and the Appropriation Ordinances which provide for them have been duly passed by the local Legislature. I may add that I am unable to follow all the hon. Member's figures, and the comparison which he makes requires considerable qualification, because the expenses of the Governor's establishment (part of which is borne by Orange River Colony funds) and of the Lieutenant-Governor's cover some items like clerical assistance and cables which appear separately in the Estimates of the South African Republic. In the case of the Governor's house, the sum set aside for its purchase would remove a charge of £1,900 per annum for rent. I feel sure that Lord Selborne may be relied upon to practise all reasonable economy in these matters, and I may say that considerable retrenchments have been made by the Administration within the last year. It must be remembered, in dealing with the expenditure referred to, that the cost of land, building, and living, which enormously increased during and after the war, still remains very high.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlvii., 1350.

Disturbances at Angelo and New Comet Mines.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will give particulars of the disturbances which took place on the 14th and 15th of May amongst the employees of the Angelo and New Comet Mines; what were the causes which produced the disturbances; and whether, seeing that five Chinese, four Kaffirs, and one Indian coolie were killed, what steps he proposes to take to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I have not yet received an official account of these disturbances; but I have asked for a Report.

Alleged Cruelty to a Native at the Crœsus Gold Mine, Langlaate.

MR. LEIF JONES: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to a case tried before Mr. Van den Berg, at "A" Court, Johannesburg, on 17th May, 1905, in which an overseer at the Crœsus Gold Mine, Langlaate, was fined £20 for cruelty to a native, and in which the indictment alleged that, on 8th May, the accused assaulted one of his native employees, named Jim Simali, by handcuffing him to an iron staple attached to a wooden plank made fast to the floor, keeping him in that position for four days without food or drink; whether he will take steps to have the man convicted of this crime removed from his post as overseer; and whether he will devise some greater safeguards than at present exist to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I am asking the Governor for a report on this case, and for his observations as to the steps which the Government may be able to take, not merely to punish such offences but to prevent their occurrence. In the newspaper account of the trial which I have seen the accused is referred to as "a contractor," and not as "an overseer," and the magistrate found as a fact that the native had not been kept without food and drink.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

South African War Stores Inquiry—Officers Relieved from Duty.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many of the officers criticised in the Butler Report have been relieved from duty, and when were they thus relieved; and whether their salaries are to be fully paid while they are suspended from the discharge of the duties appertaining to their offices.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.) Five Army Service Corps officers were relieved from duty on May 26th, and three Army Pay Department officers on June 9th. They are still drawing pay.

South African War Stores Inquiry—Alleged Destruction of Official Documents.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when did it come to his knowledge that according to the statement in the Butler Committee important documents bearing on the South African contracts and refunds had been lost or destroyed; when did he take steps and give orders that all documents connected with the inquiry both at home or in South Africa should be impounded; what are the steps he has taken for the impounding of these documents; and what assurance, if any, can he give the House of Commons that those steps will be effective.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: In view of the further inquiry necessitated by the Report of Sir William Butler's Committee, the Army Council decided to impound all documents connected therewith. A telegram to this effect was accordingly despatched on June 19th to the General Officer Commanding, South Africa, to take the necessary measures. Corresponding action was also taken in regard to the documents in the War Office.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: The right hon. Gentleman has not told me exactly how those documents were impounded. In whose hands were they kept?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I am responsible for taking care of them.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): When did the War Office get the Report?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Was it not on April 13th?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, the hon. Gentleman is quite mistaken.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: What was the date, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must give notice.

Officers and Libel Actions.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is in accordance with the rules and practice of the service for an officer who is still serving in the Army to bring a civil action with reference to any matter in relation to his conduct in the discharge of his duties until he has obtained the sanction of the War Office authorities in taking this step; whether the actions recently brought against *The Times* newspaper and the *Daily News* by Colonel Morgan, in which he obtained verdicts with damages against those papers, were brought at the instigation of the War Office; whether the consent of the War Office was previously obtained by Colonel Morgan for instructing his solicitors to bring an action for libel against the *Daily News* for its article in the issue of 16th June commenting on the Butler Report, and was this step taken at the instigation of the War Office; and, if so, will he explain the circumstances in which the War Office gave consent to the bringing of this action or instigated that proceeding.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There is no rule against officers taking legal action to defend their private characters when aspersed. Colonel Morgan informed the War Office of the action he had taken in reference to the articles in *The Times* and *Daily News*. He was not in any way instigated by the War Office to take such action.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL pressed for an Answer to the last part of his Question.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: He neither received nor required the sanction of the War Office.

Colonel Morgan's Action.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is in accordance with the rules and practice of the service for an officer still serving in the Army to instruct his solicitors, as Colonel Morgan has done, to write to the Secretary of State for War letters with reference to the publication and the merits of a Departmental Report reflecting on his conduct; had Colonel Morgan, before taking this step, the sanction of the War Office authorities; and, if so, under what circumstances was that sanction given; whether, having regard to the fact that the letter, dated June 19th, from Colonel Morgan's solicitors to the right hon. Gentleman, commenting on the Butler Report, has been published in the Press with his consent, why has his consent, solicited by Colonel Morgan in that letter, to send the complete correspondence to the Press, containing a letter from Colonel Morgan's solicitors on May 31st, protesting against the publication of the Butler Report, been withheld; and whether he will now publish, or consent to the publication of, the complete correspondence between himself and Colonel Morgan's solicitors on the subject.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Colonel Morgan has been permitted, since the commencement of his civil actions for libel, to communicate with the War Office through the medium of his solicitors. Permission was granted to Colonel Morgan's solicitors to publish the letter of June 19th in the Press. The correspondence on this special feature of the case consisted of the above-quoted letter and our reply thereto.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: In the letter which the Secretary of State allowed to be published there was a distinct reference to a letter written by Colonel Morgan's solicitors on May 31st, protesting against the publication of the Report. Will the right hon. Gentleman lay that letter on the Table or allow it to be published?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have no power to prevent its publication.

Natal Field Force Canteen Balance.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is now prepared to lay a detailed statement of account respecting the £470,000 balance, stated by Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan in his evidence before the Royal Commission on the South African War to be standing to the credit of the Natal Field Force canteens when that officer left South Africa; and whether he will cause an inquiry to be made into the present working of the South African garrison institute system which grew out of the field force canteen system.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The field force canteens accounts will come within the purview of the Royal Commission. A report on the working of the South African garrison institutes is due from South Africa in July, and until I have seen it I cannot say what steps will be taken in regard to it.

General Lyttelton.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any communications, verbal or written, have passed between General Sir Neville Lyttelton and the War Office with reference to retiring from his present position or being transferred to another post.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The reply is in the negative.

The Destruction of Rations in South Africa.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what steps he proposes to take to investigate the circumstances attending the condemnation and destruction of £295,823 worth of emergency and other rations supplied for the use of the troops in South Africa, as described in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General [Command 45] issued on March 10th, 1905.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The Royal Commission will have power to deal with this question if at any stage of their proceedings they think it would throw light on the particular subject they have been asked to investigate.

SIR A. HAYTER (Walsall) asked whether the case mentioned by the hon. Member for North Camberwell would come within the purview of the Royal Commission, since it was a case of a contractor supplying rations condemned after the war. If so, it might be unfair to the contractor to be called upon to appear before the Public Accounts Committee if he was afterwards to appear before the Royal Commission.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It would be very improper for me to dictate to the Commission what will or will not be relevant to the inquiry with which they have been charged; but speaking merely from my own impressions I should conjecture that this subject would probably not come under their survey, and it would be quite proper for the Public Accounts Committee to examine into it. But that is merely a personal view taken with imperfect knowledge.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is it to be understood that the terms of reference will cover not only the sale of stores but their destruction?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot add to what I have said. The reference is, and was intended to be, a wide one, and

I think it is universally recognised as such, but exactly how the Commissioners will interpret it is not for me to judge, for it has passed out of my hands. I did my best to frame the reference on broad lines, but it would not be right to offer an authoritative interpretation of it now the Commissioners are at their work.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether, if the Commission held that the subject was not within their reference, the Government would engage that there should be an inquiry into the circumstances of the destruction of the stores.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; the machinery is already provided in the Public Accounts Committee.

Debate on War Office Administration.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that the Royal Commission appointed to investigate the Report of the Butler Committee will be confined to a consideration of the circumstances connected with contracts, sales, and refunds to contractors in South Africa, he will give the House an opportunity of discussing the other matters of War Office administration dealt with in the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee, 1904, and of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, 1905.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The opportunity which I have engaged to give the House on the Estimates for the discussion of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee will, I hope, meet the views of the hon. Gentleman.

The Royal Commission.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that the members of the proposed Royal Commission of inquiry into the circumstances of the Government contracts and refunds in South Africa will be appointed by the Crown on his advice or responsibility and that the proposed inquiry concerns not merely the incriminated officers but the Cabinet in its collective capacity, the House of Commons will be given an opportunity of expressing its confidence or otherwise in the gentlemen whom he intends to recommend to the Crown for appointment as members of this Commission; and whether he will give an undertaking that he will not propose any gentleman to serve on that Commission who has been the recipient of honours, or has been or is the holder of any office of place or profit under the Crown on the recommendation of any member of the present Cabinet, or who has been or is a Government contractor, or a director of a company having contracts with Government Departments, or a director of any public company of which a member of the present Administration is also a director.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This Question was put down before the Commission was announced. I imagine the hon. Member does not now need an Answer to it.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: No, but it is a record of my idea.

Military Manœuvres in Ireland.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether military manœuvres on a large scale are to take place in Ireland in 1906, and whether any portion of the cost of these manœuvres will be borne by Ireland, and what its probable amount; and whether, in view of the reports of experts on last year's military manœuvres in England and the expenditure of time and money involved, he will consider the desirability of abandoning the proposed manœuvres in Ireland next year.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The question of what Army manœuvres will be held in 1906 has not yet been considered.

General Elles.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any communication has reached the India Office on the subject of the resignation, transfer, or recall of General Sir E. R. Elles.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have really nothing to add to the Answer I gave yesterday[†]. I have had no communication on the subject except the despatch which was published to the House, in which Sir E. Elles stated that he had but a few months to serve, but if any changes were contemplated in his department he would desire to offer his resignation. Those changes are contemplated, and, that being so, he will probably desire to offer his resignation. In that case care will be taken that he will not be the loser by any changes.

[†] See page 253.

MR. MACVEAGH: It is stated in the newspapers that General Elles has stated that he has resigned, and that he understands that his resignation has been accepted. Has he resigned, and does the Secretary for India understand that he has resigned, and that his resignation has been accepted?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot answer more clearly than I have already done.

MR. MACVEAGH: You can say "Yes" or "No."

MR. BRODRICK: He has indicated his intention of resigning if certain changes were made. Since then I have received no communication from General Elles, but it has been intimated to the Government of India that certain changes will be made which will, no doubt, involve General Elles's resignation.

MR. MACVEAGH: How many communications have been received from Lord Kitchener on this matter?

[No Answer was returned.]

Lord Curzon.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, having regard to the various conflicting reports in the public Press on the subject, he will state: (1) whether at any time since his recent visit to this country the Viceroy of India has intimated his intention of resigning office in the event of the powers of the Commander-in-Chief in India being largely increased: (2) whether any communication expressing disapproval of the decision of the Government in this matter has been received from Lord Curzon, and is he in a position to give a denial to the reports that the Viceroy's resignation is impending.

MR. BRODRICK: The House is aware from the despatches which have been published that a difference of opinion has arisen between the Commander-in-Chief in India and the Governor-General in Council as to the administration of the Army in India. I have nothing to add to what has been published except to say in reply to the second Question that since the receipt of the recent despatch conveying the decision of His Majesty's Government on the question at issue between the authorities in India, a communication has been received from the Viceroy suggesting certain modifications in the proposed arrangements, which are now under the consideration of His Majesty's Government. The Viceroy has not tendered his resignation.

MR. DALZIEL: With regard to the suggested modifications, may I ask if Lord Curzon has intimated that in the event of his view not being adopted he will tender his resignation?

MR. BRODRICK made no reply,

MR. DALZIEL: I presume I may take it that is so?

MR. BRODRICK shook his head.

Venezuela.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government of Venezuela has already paid into the Bank of England the amounts of money due to the British Government and the Governments of Germany and Italy under the award of the Tribunal of Arbitration according to the Agreement of February 13th, 1903; if so, what are the partial totals of each payment made by the said Government of Venezuela towards the fulfilment of its obligations according to the settlement with each of the above stated Governments; and on what dates were the said partial payments made.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): It was provided by Article V. of the Protocol of 13th February, 1903, that "pending the decision of The Hague Tribunal" as to the question of priority the receipts of the Customs of the Ports of La Gucyra and Puerto Cabello should be paid over to the representative of the Bank of England at Caracas. From April 1st of that year, therefore, down to the date of the Hague Award (February 22nd, 1904) the monthly instalments were duly lodged in the Bank of England, and these at the latter date amounted to upwards of £178,500. This sum was then distributed between Great Britain, Germany, and Italy in proportion to the aggregate of the Awards obtained by each Power from the Claims Commissions up to that date, viz: — approximately, Great Britain £104,500, Germany £23,000, Italy £50,600. The Customs receipts after that time were retained at Caracas and were in the first instance distributed there by the Legations of the three Powers on the same principle. When, however, the Awards of the British, German, and Italian mixed Commissions had been completed a fixed ratio was established and the monthly instalments are now handed over by Venezuela directly to the representatives of the three Powers at Caracas. The amount of Customs receipts down to April last paid by Venezuela to His Majesty's Government is £224,369, or somewhat over 60 per cent. of the British claims, which, to that extent, have now been paid or are in process of payment.

Misappropriation of Trust Funds.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General if he can inform the House how many cases of misappropriation of trust funds have been reported to the Lord Chancellor by the Incorporated Law Society in the fifteen years ending May 31st, 1905; and what sum of money was lost to the beneficiaries by the misfeasance of the delinquents in question.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): These cases are not reported to the Lord Chancellor. I am informed by the officials of the Incorporated Law Society that, during the fifteen years ended May 31st, 1905, there were sixty-one such cases, and that the total amount of trust funds misappropriated was approximately £152,110.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: May I ask whether cases of solicitors being struck off the rolls are not reported to the Lord Chancellor?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: If any solicitor is dealt with by the High Court on the application of the Incorporated Law Society he is reported to the Lord Chancellor. During the last three years there have been fifty-six such cases.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: In how many of these cases were members of the Incorporated Law Society implicated?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY was understood to say he did not know.

Motors in Hyde Park.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether some road in Hyde Park can be set apart for motor cars and bicycles where they would be free from the dangers and smells arising from horse traffic, as in Paris and Berlin.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): The First Commissioner regrets that he is unable to adopt this suggestion.

Complaints against Motor-Cars in Hyde Park.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether any complaints have been received from the public as to motor-cars in Hyde Park; and, if so, the nature of the complaints.

LORD BALCARRES: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative: noise, speed, smell, smoke, and dust are complained of.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): Cannot the noble Lord also add danger?

Mr. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry): Is it not the fact that there is no smell or disagreeableness from electric cars?

Lord BALCARRES: Perhaps no smell; but there may be objections of another sort.

The New Motor-Car Regulation for Hyde Park.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU: On behalf of the hon. Member for Coventry, I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether, in view of the fact that the sudden curtailment of ordinary rights of locomotion hitherto enjoyed by owners of electric and other mechanically-propelled carriages in the parks must involve serious consequences to those interested in the manufacture and sale of such carriages, he will take steps to cancel the order recently issued prohibiting the circulation of such carriages in Hyde Park between four and seven.

Lord BALCARRES: The First Commissioner regrets that he is unable to cancel the regulation referred to.

Suggested Modification of the New Motor-Car Regulation in Hyde Park.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether, seeing that the road within Hyde Park from Hyde Park Corner to the Marble Arch is wider than the rest of the roadways in Hyde Park, he will recommend that motor-cars, not used for purposes of trade, may be allowed within the now prohibited hours in the afternoon to proceed along the road in the Park from Hyde Park Corner to the Marble Arch, and *vice versa*.

Lord BALCARRES: The First Commissioner regrets that he is unable to make the alteration suggested.

Electrical Landaulettes in Hyde Park.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he can state upon what grounds electrical landaulettes are excluded from Hyde Park between the hours of four and seven p.m., seeing that they emit no offensive odours and are limited by their construction to a slow speed.

Lord BALCARRES: They are excluded in the interests of the public who do not use motor-cars.

Amalgamation of Offices of Crown Solicitor for County Antrim and Sessional Crown Solicitor for Belfast.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can state if any economy has been effected by the amalgamation of the offices of Crown Solicitor for county Antrim and Sessional Crown Solicitor for the city of Belfast; and, if so, what is the amount saved by the new arrangement.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): A saving of £50 a year in salaries has been effected.

Mr. JOSEPH DELVIN: To what fund is it paid?

Mr. MACVEAGH: Is it carried to the Development Fund?

Mr. ATKINSON: No, Sir.

Irish Language in Irish Schools.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an inspector of national schools, named Connolly, is acting on the instructions of the Board of Education in endeavouring to discourage teachers from giving instruction to their pupils in Irish in places where the managers and the parents wish the language to be taught to the children.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): Mr. Connolly, Senior Inspector of National Schools, has received no instructions to discourage teachers from giving instruction to their pupils in Irish, and he denies that he is doing so.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: If I send him the statements of teachers will the right hon. Gentleman inquire further?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I will consider any statements sent me.

School Examinations in Irish.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether arrangements have been made whereby national schools, in Irish-speaking parts of Ireland, adopting the bilingual education system will be inspected by inspectors competent to examine the children in Irish, or whether such schools will continue to be inspected by the local inspectors, irrespective of whether they are qualified to conduct the examination in both languages or not.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Arrangements have been made for the inspection, by competent inspectors, of all schools in which the bilingual programme is adopted.

Instructions to Irish School Inspectors.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state whether the instructions issued by the Board of National Education in or about February, 1904, to their inspectors, which formed the subject of a debate in this House on March 14th, 1904, resulting in the defeat of the Government, have ever been withdrawn, or whether, in whole or in part, they have since been put in operation.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The instructions dated January (not February), 1904, were considered ambiguous in some respects, and the Board of National Education had agreed, prior to March 14th, to remove the ambiguities by the issue of a fresh circular of instructions. The form of the new circular was in fact outlined by my right hon. friend the Member for Dover in replying to a Question put to him by the hon. Member on March 8th,† 1904. The modified instructions have since been acted upon.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I have not seen the circular, but is it a fact that children up to the fourth standard are prevented from learning Irish?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I must ask for notice of that.

Girls' Schools in Ireland and Rule 127 (b).

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many separate national schools for girls in Ireland have only one room; how many of such schools have only one teacher; and whether the Commissioners of National Education regard these single-room and single-teacher female schools as suitable in the sense of Rule 127 (b).

Mr. WALTER LONG: The number of girls' schools which have only one room cannot be stated without inquiry, which would take a considerable time. There are 1,212 girls' schools which have only one teacher, and it may be assumed that most of these schools have but one room. Whether such schools are suitable in the sense of Rule 127 (b) depends not only upon the sufficiency of the accommodation, but also upon the capacity and religious persuasion of the teacher, and her efficiency as regards the teaching of infants.

Tobacco Growing in Ireland.

Mr. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that only one person was authorised by the Board of Inland Revenue to grow tobacco in Ireland last year and obtain the rebate of 1s. per pound on the produce, and that other persons who carried out experimental growing at their own cost have been refused a rebate; and if he will consider the desirability of recommending the Board of Inland Revenue to grant the rebate to these growers.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The rebate is only allowed to a limited number of growers selected by, and working under the supervision of, the Department of

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxxi., 460.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The Department's Advisory Committee on Tobacco recommended that the experiment in 1904 should be confined to one centre, viz., Navan, and that at least twenty acres should be grown there. Others in the district having declined to offer land for the purpose, Colonel Everard undertook to plant the entire twenty acres, and consequently he was the only approved grower entitled to the rebate. The Answer to the concluding inquiry is in the negative.

Cost of Building and Equipment for Irish Tobacco-Growing Experiments.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the total amount expended by the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction on the erection of a barn and heating apparatus for drying tobacco leaf on the estate of Colonel Everard; and whether the building and plant will become the property of this gentleman at the end of the experiments.

MR. WALTER LONG: The amount expended was £1,725. The building and equipment remain the property of the Department, and will be disposed of by them on the completion of the experiments.

Belfast Riot Charges.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on June 5th six young men, viz.:—Messrs. Greer, Currie, Cleland, Engleson, Ferguson, and Brown, were apprehended by the police in Belfast; and will he state whether these men were subsequently charged; and if so, what was the nature of the complaint, with the result in each case.

MR. WALTER LONG: The six persons named were arrested by the police and charged with riotous behaviour. Each was fined 40s. and costs, and in addition all save Engleson were required to find sureties to keep the peace. The fines were paid and the necessary recognisances entered into.

New Recorder of Dublin.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is intended to appoint as Recorder of Dublin a barrister sharing the religious and political opinions of the majority of the people of Dublin.

MR. WALTER LONG: Mr. T. L. O'Shaughnessy, K.C., has been appointed as Recorder of Dublin.

MR. MACVEAGH: Are his political and religious opinions in accord with those of the majority of the people of Dublin?

MR. WALTER LONG: I have no knowledge whatever.

MR. MACVEAGH: Will you appoint a Royal Commissission with statutory powers to ascertain?

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: Was the Ulster Unionist Party consulted before the appointment was made?

[No Answer was returned.]

Cusack Estate, Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain the cause of delay in inspecting the Cusack (county Longford) Estate, a request for the purchase of which by the Estates Commissioners was issued on June 18th, 1904; and will he urge the Commissioners to now proceed with the acquirement and sub-division of this property.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am informed that the necessary documents are now in the hands of the inspector for the purpose of inquiry and inspection of the estate.

Longford Voters, Jurors, and Valuation Lists.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of a resolution passed by the Longford County Council at their statutory meeting in favour of triennial revision of voters, jurors, and valuation lists, or in the alternative the paying of the costs of preparing these lists out of Government funds; and whether it is proposed to take any action in this matter.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The suggestion conveyed by the resolution would involve Amendments in several Acts of Parliament and an alteration of the whole system of revision; and would apparently impose unfair burdens on the taxpayer. It is not proposed to take action in the matter.

Dean Galbraith's Estate, County Tyrone.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Dean Galbraith, of county Tyrone, has now made an offer to his tenants in county Longford to sell this estate to them; and whether, seeing that most of the property is mountain and bog, tenanted by tenants under £4 valuation, and that this property comes within the definition of a congested estate, he will direct the attention of the Estates Commissioners to the landlord's offer, with a view to the opening of negotiations between that body and the landlord.

Mr. WALTER LONG: No proceedings as to this estate have taken place before the Commissioners, but if the estate should come before them the matter referred to in the Question will receive their attention.

Flax Cultivation in Ulster.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the acreage under flax in Ulster at the time of the establishment of the Board of Agriculture in Ireland and the acreage now; and whether he will consider the question of issuing a special Report on the subject.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Department was established in 1900. The area under flax in Ulster in 1899 was 34,596 acres, and in 1904, 44,027 acres. Articles on the flax-growing industry, and on the results of the Department's annual experiments, have appeared from time to time in the Department's Journal, and have also been largely distributed in leaflet form. I am considering the question of the necessity of issuing a special Report.

Norway and Sweden—Great Britain's Treaty Obligations.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury have His Majesty's Government considered the effect of the proposed dissolution of the union between Sweden and Norway upon the obligations undertaken by Great Britain in Article 2 of the Treaty of November 17th, 1855, guaranteeing the territories of the King of Sweden and Norway, and undertaking in certain eventualities to furnish naval and military forces in defence of those territories; and will these obligations be in any way impaired, so far as Great Britain is concerned, by the dissolution of the union between Sweden and Norway.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Undoubtedly, Sir, should a separation take place between the two kingdoms forming the Scandinavian Peninsula the treaty to which the hon. Member refers will require reconsideration.

Scottish Education Bill.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury on what day Committee of the Scotch Education Bill will be taken.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot fix a day for this. In my opinion the Scottish Churches Bill is of more pressing importance and should have precedence.

Churches (Scotland) Bill.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to take the Second Reading of the Churches (Scotland) Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to take it on an early day. I am anxious to get on with it.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Augustine Roche, esquire, for the Borough of Cork.

NEW BILL.

WAR STORES (COMMISSION) BILL.

"To facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to hold an investigation respecting War Stores in South Africa," presented by Mr. Attorney-General; supported by Mr. Solicitor-General; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 257.]

MOTOR-CAR ACT (1903) AMENDMENT.

*MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) in introducing a Bill to amend the Motor-Car Act of 1903, said he introduced this Bill under the ten minutes rule because, although it was a short and simple Bill, it was still, he ventured to think, one of considerable importance. It was introduced because of the debate which took place in the House a week or two ago. In that debate there was one very striking feature, namely, that all speakers, whatever view they took on other matters, were unanimous on one point. It was that something should be done with regard to "road hogs." What was a "road hog?" These "road hogs" he ventured to think were defined by the first clause of the Motor-Car Act, which prescribed certain penalties for a man who recklessly, negligently, or dangerously drove a motor-car. Experience had proved fines were no deterrent to these gentlemen. They paid them and cared nothing more about it, hence he desired to alter the law in one particular only. Under Clause 1 of the Motor Act, 1903, which enacted the penalties for dangerous and reckless driving, on conviction for a first offence a magistrate had power to impose a penalty of £20, and on conviction of a second offence a penalty of £50 or three months imprisonment. He proposed to alter the law with reference to the first offence, and he proposed to give the magistrates power to inflict a fine of £20 or imprisonment for one month. This Bill had nothing whatever to do with the question of speed limit. He left that entirely as it was at present, so neither the Prime Minister nor the Attorney-General nor the Secretary of the Board of Education need be alarmed. He was quite sure if the Bill were adopted it would prove effective, because experience had shown that although these men did not mind running the risk of a fine they would think a longtime before they risked imprisonment He had endeavoured to be scrupulously fair in the Bill, and he had introduced a clause giving the same power of appeal in case of a savage sentence as was given under the Motor-Car Act. He did not, however, think they need fear that magistrates would act in a savage manner. In the debate the other day no complaint had been made with regard to the magistrates, and he had a letter in his pocket at that moment complaining not of the severity but of the leniency of the magistrates. If the Bill became law, he provided that it should come into force on September 1st, and it would continue as long as the Motor-Car Act of 1903. It was in no sense an anti-motor Bill, because it was backed by no less than six Gentlemen who owned motors and took a keen interest in motoring. He appealed to the Government to assist in securing the passage of the Bill, expressing the hope that they would not shelter themselves behind the Committee to be appointed, a Committee which nobody wanted and which many thought was only being set up for the purpose of delay, and stating that if nothing were done now things would have to remain as they were till 1907, and the terrible accidents of which they read would continue to occur. He hoped also the Bill would not be blocked by any private Members, and he declared that if it were, on those hon. Members' shoulders would largely rest the responsibility for the accidents, loss of lives, and public anxiety, which were now prevalent throughout the country.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend The Motor-Car Act, 1903."

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest) had nothing really to say against the propositions advanced by the hon. Member for Barnstaple. At the same time it must not be forgotten that there was undeniably a prejudice against motor-cars in many districts, and it would be dangerous to put these stringent powers in the hands of some magistrates who, like Canon Greenwell, of Durham, were so prejudiced against cars. The existing powers were very strong; not only could a fine of £10 be inflicted for a first offence, but the licence could be suspended. He thought the House would do well to await the result of the inquiry promised by the Local Government Board. While he and his hon. friends were prepared to consider the Bill he could not promise an easy passage for it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) asked if he would be in order in moving the adjournment of the debate.

*MR. SPEAKER said a discretion was with the Speaker whether he should put the Question that leave be given or a Motion for adjournment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 222; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 217.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Benn, John Williams
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulnois, Edmund
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Buxton,SydneyCharles (Poplar
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Chapman, Edward
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt.Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, CaptEC (S.Andrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Sir Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn.J.E(Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj. Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Henry D.(Shrewsbury)
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hammond, John
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harrington, Timothy
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,John(Kent Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Lief (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, P.J.(Westmeath, N.)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Kilbride, Denis
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, SirJoseph F.(Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Long,Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lough, Thomas
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth)
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Malcolm, Ian
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshir.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H.M.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murphy, John
Murray, Col. Wyndhm (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell T. (Kery, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renwick, George
Richards, Thomas
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, RtHn J. Parker(Lanarks
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stanley, Hn. Arthur Ormskirk
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tuff, Charles
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E H(Sheffield
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Walton, John Lawson(Leeds, S.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E.(Taunton
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und. Lyne
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T.(Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Soares and Mr. Allhusen.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bowles, T. Gibson(King's Lynn
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brymer, William Ernest
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A.(Glasgow
Campbell, J. H. M(Dublin Univ.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Denny, Colonel
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Elibank, Master of
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Rt Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fison, Frederick William
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S.(Warwick, S. W.
Garfit, William
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, Sir James(Staffords. N W
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan, W.
Levy, Maurice
Lowe, Francis William
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rose, Charles Day
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir Harry S.(Limehouse
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Stroyan, John
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Scott Montagu and Mr. Lonsdale.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Soares, Mr. Allhusen, Mr. Cawley, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lyell, Mr. Nussey, Mr. Philipps, Mr. Remnant, Mr. Spear, and Mr. Wills.

MOTOR-CAR ACT (1903) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Motor Car Act, 1903." Presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 258.]

MR. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time to-morrow.

ALIENS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N. R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendment again proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word 'landed,' and to insert the words 'prevented from landing'."—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'landed' stand part of the clause."

Mr. HUNTER CRAIG (Lanarkshire, Govan) asked the Home Secretary whether he would consider the question of extending the number of open ports beyond those provided in the Bill. The people of the West of Scotland were particularly interested in having the port of Grangemouth included in the number of immigrant ports.

Sir CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) asked the Home Secretary whether it would be possible, where various ports were situated on the estuary, to make the estuary the unit for administrative purposes under the Bill instead of any one particular port? For instance, on one side of Scotland they had Greenock and Glasgow, both ports of importance, and on the other side, in the estuary of the Forth, they had Leith, Grangemouth, and Bo'ness. No doubt there were other similar cases in the United Kingdom, and he did think that if they could in such cases make the estuary the unit for administrative purposes it would materially facilitate the working of the Bill.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that what he understood was the intention of the Government was that immigrants exceeding twenty in number could only come into the country at certain ports where inspection was provided, and that everywhere else they might come in up to the number of twenty and in successive batches. Therefore, if a number of steamers were crossing from Calais to Dover each one might bring twenty and discharge them on the quay at Dover so long as no vessel carried more than twenty. If there were more than twenty, the ship must go back to the port from which she came or must proceed to disgorge them at some port where there would be some inspection, Probably the latter course would be preferred, and the natural course that would suggest itself to any steamboat company would be to have a tender to take the immigrants exceeding twenty in number to another port where they would come in without inspection. Therefore, in all probability, transmigrants would come in in large batches and would be rapidly passed through, having all their papers in order; but immigrants, on the other hand, who desired to stay in England would come in in small batches under twenty and would be landed at ports where there was no provision for inspection and would be subject to no inquiry whatever. These people, who would come in in small batches and who would be subject to no inquiry whatever, were just the people they desired to exclude. The exclusion order would be of no use with regard to them, because they would not be seen until they committed some new crime.

It might be said that this was to presume an amount of organisation and care in the disposal of the immigrant which would give more trouble than it would be worth; but this immigrant traffic from the Continent of Europe had been organised on a great scale with much care and effort, and they must not assume that the companies would not adapt themselves to the conditions they would have to face if the Bill were passed, and so arrange that the transmigrant should pass through, and that those who were coming to stay and possibly prey upon the country should come in in small batches and escape inspection althogether. Could anything be imagined more ineffective and absurd than this Bill. All the objects the Government set itself to attain would be defeated. He could not see, the more he looked at the Bill, what was to be attained by it, and he earnestly begged the Home Secretary and his colleagues to consider whether they would not make fools of Parliament and themselves if they insisted upon passing the Bill. Upon their own showing it had every prospect of being utterly useless. They appeared to have been deceived by a false idea of analogy between the United States and this country, but what possible analogy could there be between a country into which all the immigrants came at practically only five or six great ports, and this country, close to the Continent of Europe, and with a large number of small ports. Could they imagine anything more unlike than the conditions prevailing here and those prevailing in the United States? The system proposed by the Government would be not only costly and vexatious, but would be also ineffective.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked if it was seriously intended that, at every port where this Bill would operate, absolute power over the shipping was to be given to the Home Secretary, who was the head of the police force, and that this branch of the commerce of the country was to be administered by the police force from a police point of view? Would not the right hon. Gentleman make some promise that he would at least give notice to our unfortunate merchantmen, to the unhappy people who imported and exported goods, before he closed one port and opened another? The whole question required more examination than the Committee seemed disposed to give it. He asked this Question, not with the object of impeding the progress of the Bill, but because there seemed to be such absolute ignorance of the details of the system proposed to be set up.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) said he had no intention, and should have no right, to give a preferential advantage to one port over another, always providing that the ships which this Bill proposed to deal with went to these particular ports.

Mr. LOUGH: Would they all be closed?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: No.

Mr. LOUGH: Then would they all be open?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said the hon. Member for Islington seemed to be under some misapprehension. The principle of the Bill was to deal with the immigration of aliens in large quantities to this country. Only the aliens coming in immigrant ships in those quantities would be obliged to go to the ports listed. The ports had not been listed in the Bill in order to avoid confusion, as it might be necessary to add to them, or substitute one for another. Notice would be given to all concerned by the usual methods, by publication in the *Gazette*, and by communication with the shipowning companies and the foreign agents. There would be no desire on the part of the Government to select too small a number of ports. When, on the First or Second Reading, he had been asked what ports would be included, he had said that certainly the eight chief ports described in the Return of the Board of Trade would be among them, but he also said that if they found that the traffic went to other ports they would be able to apply the machinery of the Bill to such ports. For instance, shipowners might desire to bring their traffic to Harwich rather than Dover, or to Queenborough rather than Newhaven, and it was to meet such cases that they desired to have the power of transferring the machinery from one port to another. He entirely agreed with the right hon. Member for Aberdeen that there was no analogy between this country and the United States. The right hon. Gentleman had pointed out that the whole of the immigrant traffic which went to the United States practically went to five ports.

Mr. BRYCE: Two or three.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that was the reason why they had not adopted the American system in this Bill. In many ways it would have been more satisfactory if they could have done so, but the circumstances were entirely different, and their machinery must therefore be different. When the right hon. Gentleman suggested, however, that they ought to drop the first part of the Bill on that account, he entirely forgot that the Bill was introduced for the purpose of dealing with undesirable aliens who came to this country in bulk. The limit of twenty was suggested because they did not wish to put to unnecessary inconvenience shipowners who dealt with aliens who came in small parties. It was proposed to deal with criminals under Clause 3, and many of them could be dealt with by extradition. In many cases they were known to the police, and there was little difficulty in dealing with them. Whilst it was true that criminals might come through under the first part of the Bill, he believed the machinery of those two clauses would form a satisfactory provision for preventing their coming here and remaining in this country.

They must have regard to the general practice. He believed that by the provisions of this Bill they would secure those two objects. The machinery of the Bill was intended to deal with the landing of undesirable aliens in this country, and therefore they were not interfering with transmigration, and it was not their intention to put any difficulties in the way of transmigrants. They would allow transmigrants to pass through this country as uninterruptedly as possible, always providing that their officers were satisfied that it was a *bona fide* traffic, and was not being taken advantage of in order to land in this country any considerable number of undesirable aliens.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said they all recognised the spirit in which the right hon. Gentleman had addressed the Committee, and the attitude he had taken up would greatly facilitate the passing of this Bill. Although they had devoted much time to this Amendment he was sure the Home Secretary would recognise that the main principle of the Bill was raised in this Amendment. Upon this Amendment they had achieved the very important success of having got the Government to recognise that this Bill would not prevent the importation of undesirable aliens, and that was surely something. They now knew that when the Government put this Bill into the shop window throughout the country, and told the electors that if they supported the Government candidates they would pass a Bill to keep out undesirable aliens, they were stating something which was misleading.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think I had again better remind the Committee what the Amendment is. The Bill proposes that immigrant ships should be allowed to come to certain ports, and that there should be certain restrictions. The Amendment proposes that immigrant ships may come to any port, but only at certain ports should there be certain restrictions. It is to either one or the other of these proposals that the hon. Member should address himself.

MR. DALZIEL said his point was that to attempt to limit this proposal to a certain number of ports was a mistake and ought not to be supported. Upon a previous occasion the Attorney-General spoke in defence of machinery which allowed aliens to come in at any port, but the whole machinery had now been amended, and now they had before them entirely different machinery altogether, which the right hon. Gentleman was no doubt equally ready to defend. The Home Secretary had admitted that this Bill would not stop the importation of undesirable aliens.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): He said "not entirely."

MR. DALZIEL said they could not stop them coming in certain batches, so what was the use of pretending that this was a Bill which would keep aliens out of this country. The right hon. Gentleman said it would only stop them coming in bulk. It might be summed up by saying "large parties we cannot cater for; small parties cordially welcomed." At last they had pricked this alien bubble.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the hon. Member is making a Second Reading speech.

MR. DALZIEL said he was certainly not going outside the speech of the Home Secretary, but he would keep to the point as nearly as possible, and take another opportunity of dealing with the principle involved. The right hon. Gentleman was now asking for a power which the Committee ought not to give. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that he was not going to give them the names of the ports until after the Bill was passed, but he had no right to make such a demand, because the question of the different ports was the whole essence of the Bill. He supposed that it was in the West of Scotland and Glasgow that the greater part of this trade took place, and the only port they were going to include was the Port of Leith. Already the agency companies were advising the people abroad not to come to this country on account of the great difficulties which were being placed in their way. This Amendment showed the utter hollowness of the claims of the Government in regard to this measure, for it was a sham measure from beginning to end.

MR. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said he thought hon. Gentlemen opposite spoke without any knowledge whatever of the shipping traffic. The Home Secretary, in proposing to schedule eight or nine principal ports, was doing something which would effectually deal with practically the whole of the undesirable alien traffic. The majority of the ships which traded between this country and the Continent and which carried these passengers did not carry them as a principal part of their trade. They traded to and from ports where they could get cargoes and they only carried passengers in a subsidiary way and not as ordinary passenger boats did. Therefore, he maintained that by scheduling these eight or nine principal ports practically the whole of the traffic would be covered. It was not for one moment to be supposed that shipowners were going to dodge the Act in the way hon. Gentlemen opposite contended they would. All that the shipowner got for bringing these aliens from the Continent would be from 5s. to 15s. each. Perhaps there would be ten or twenty such passengers—but that would be a large number to bring—so that all the shipowner would get from them would be £5 or £10. It would certainly not pay the shipowner to move his ship from one port to another in order to land these people. A ship from a foreign port was bound when she entered a port to put up her ensign, and she was boarded by the Customs officers and the sanitary authority and she had to pay the dues. Therefore, no owner would think of attempting to evade the Act by moving to another port. Consequently, if any undesirable wished to land at another port, he would have to pay a large sum to the shipowner or bribe the captain, and if he could afford to do that, he would not come over in an immigrant ship but as an ordinary first-class passenger. It was absurd to say that shipowners were going to dodge between ports to evade the Act. He would like to read a resolution passed by the Direct Short-Sea Traders' Association, carrying on trade between London and the Continent, one of the most important bodies of shipowners in this country to show the attitude of shipowners regarding the question. This Association had 50 per cent. of the trade of the Port of London, and in the communication they sent to him they dealt with the question of the number of passengers and asked that the number twenty should be abolished and that there should be no limitation whatever, but that any ship bringing these passengers should be dealt with by the authorities. The concluding words of a resolution passed by them were to this effect—

> "The Association will assist to the best of their ability any Government Department in their efforts to destroy the traffic in undesirable immigrants."

Shipowners were thus prepared to support the Government in stopping this traffic, and it ill became hon. Members opposite to infer that shipowners were going out of their way to destroy the efficiency of this Bill when it became law.

*MR. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he happened to be a shipowner and knew what he was talking about when he asserted that the provisions of the Bill would not keep out the undesirable aliens, but would build up a trade at the non-scheduled ports at the expense of the scheduled ports. In fact, the Bill would give preferential treatment to particular ports, and, consequently, a preference to certain lines of steamers. A class of British shipowners engaged in the Continental trade did not make a business of carrying emigrants, although glad to get an extra £10 by their ships collecting a few such passengers; but the result of what was now proposed would be that those shipowners would exert themselves to bring to this country a number of, say, nineteen emigrants every voyage where formerly they brought only perhaps a couple, if any. The bulk of the trade upon which it was sought to place restrictions was, he thought it would be admitted, a through trade, and the moment Parliament began to interfere with it serious injury would be caused to the shipping trade. This kind of legislation was tried in the case of the Merchandise Marks Act, which had the effect of very greatly damaging the transhipment trade in goods; and this Bill would have a similar effect upon the transhipment trade in people. It should not be forgotten that the main business of this country was what he would call a middle business. But they all knew that, at bottom, this was really a tariff reform project. He supported the Amendment because he believed the proposal of the the Bill was only an attempt to set up preferential treatment to the detriment of this country. Only one thousand immigrants who arrived in this country last year remained here, and it was to deal with so small a matter that the Government made proposals which would be sure to jeopardise a great and valuable trade.

MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) said that a great many shipowners did not share the views which had been expressed by the hon. Member who had just sat down. The views of the great companies had been well expressed by the hon. Member for East Toxteth, and by the hon. Member for Newcastle, who were perfectly satisfied with the Amendments which stood on the Paper in the name of the Attorney-General. If there was anything wrong with this Bill it was that it did not go far enough. The Amendment was thoroughly bad, and those who supported it entirely forgot that other clauses would deal effectively with the smaller ports. He hoped the Committee would not waste any more time discussing this Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 218.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C. R
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Rt Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords. NW
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard John (Kent, Feversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lee, Arthur H (Hants, Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham

Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W
M‘Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E. (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, Wiliam Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Rt Hn J. Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M‘Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E. (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles (Poplar
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt E C (S. Andrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy P. J. (Westmeath, N.)
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M‘Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Richards, Thomas
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.)
Wills, ArthurWalters(N.Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Woodhouse, SirJT.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Trevelyan and Mr. Dalziel.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) moved to leave out the words "United Kingdom" in lines 6 and 7 of Clause 1, and to insert the words "Great Britain." The effect of the Amendment would be to exclude Ireland from the Bill. He trusted the debate would not proceed very long before the Home Secretary intimated acceptance of the Amendment. It had been said that this Bill was largely a "faked up" demand on the part of certain politicians in England and Scotland. However that might be, there had unquestionably been no demand for the Bill in Ireland. There had never been a single resolution passed by any public body in Ireland in favour of the Bill, nor had any public man spoken on the question, or made any demand in connection with alien immigration. For many centuries Ireland was the sanctuary of large numbers of the victims of persecution and intolerance in other countries. In the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth a large number of people sought refuge in Ireland from the religious persecution of the time. Later on when the Jews were being persecuted all over the Continent a large number sought sanctuary in Ireland, and even at the present day there were in that country a considerable number of the descendants of the Huguenots who had to fly from France and other countries. Not only did Ireland not ask such a Bill as this, but her whole traditions and history, and the feelings of the people, were against a measure of this class which was aimed at the unfortunate people who had to seek refuge. The demand that Ireland should be excluded from the Bill was a reasonable one, and he hoped the Home Secretary would at once announce that it was the intention of the Government to accept the Amendment.

It was not likely that any condition of things would arise in Ireland in regard to vessels from Continental ports such as had been described in connection with various ports in England and Scotland. There was unquestionably considerable trade between certain Continental ports and ports in Ireland, and from that point of view they desired that Ireland should be excluded. But there was another consideration which he was sure must have escaped the notice of the framers of the Bill in connection with the constant communication between the United States and Ireland. The communication took the form of both emigration and immigration. The immigrants were mostly men and women who would be described under this Bill as aliens. Unfortunately, owing to the sad condition of Ireland large numbers of people had had to leave its shores during the last half century. A considerable number when they went to America became naturalised and forswore allegiance to the Sovereign of this country. They, therefore, became in the eye of the law aliens, and they would be prevented, except under severe restrictions, from coming back to Ireland. He was sure that that was a matter which the Government could not have had in their mind when they were framing Clause 8 of the Bill. He was informed that over 10,000 Irish-born Americans who had been naturalised returned to the land of their birth and visited the Exhibition recently held at Cork. All these people would have been subjected to an examination which would have been intolerable if such a measure as this had been in operation. It was well known that a considerable number of immigrants came over every year. A small percentage of the Irishmen who had been naturalised in America travelled first class, and, therefore, would not be subject to the Bill, but a considerable number, who had only a few pounds to spend on a visit to their friends, came steerage and would be liable to exclusion. The test applied to these people would not be whether they were vicious or criminal, whether they were dynamitards or anarchists, but whether they were rich or poor. If he were an Irishman who had succeeded in making a fortune, and came as a cabin passenger, well and good; but if he were a poor man and travelled steerage he would come under the restrictions of this Bill.

It was no use telling him that some day or other the parties to whom these restrictions applied would be settled by the Board of Trade or the Home Office. He absolutely refused to place blind confidence in any future Home Secretary as to this interference with the natural desire of his fellow-countrymen, even if they had been naturalised in America, to revisit their native land. His experience of English administration was not of such a reassuring character that he should be prepared to put such large powers in the hands of the Board of Trade or the Home Office. There was one class of aliens which they particularly wished to exclude from Ireland, and that was British Ministers and British place-hunters. There was another class of Irish-born or British-born citizens who had been naturalised in America whom this Bill would exclude. It was not a large class, but one well worthy of consideration. A considerable number of old Irish-Americans — men and women — whose last, earnest desire was that they should lay their bones in the sacred soil of their own country and in the graves of their forebears. That was a settled and deep feeling in the Irish breast. Most of them were poor and must travel steerage, and the immigration officer would meet them and say, "What business have you here? Go on to Liverpool or go back to America." Nobody in Ireland had asked for the Bill; nobody took the slightest interest in it, and that because few saw the dangers lurking in it. It seriously interfered with the inflow of Irish-Americans into the country of their birth, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary would recognise these facts and exclude Ireland from the scope of the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words 'United Kingdom,' and insert the words 'Great Britain.'"—(*Mr. Flynn.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'United Kingdom' stand part of the clause."

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he was afraid that he could not see his way to accept the Amendment. He had no reason to think that Irish-Americans who came over to visit their relations in Ireland would not be able to satisfy the immigration officer as to their *status* and condition. There would be little difficulty in their passing the barrier when they could show that they had come to stay with relations and not to settle. There was one reason why it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment. It had come to his knowledge that a certain number of undesirable aliens came from America, remained in Ireland, and became a burden on the ratepayers.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) said he did not suppose that there was any objection to the compulsory exclusion of lunatics and idiots from Ireland; but the right hon. Gentleman had not in any way answered the case put by his hon. friend the Member for Cork. Persons of Irish birth who had become naturalised in the United States, but who desired to return and settle again in Ireland, would, on the face of it, be treated under this Bill as aliens, and might be treated as undesirables. He thought some more information was desirable as to what the procedure was to be. An immigrant ship, under the Bill, was a vessel which carried twenty alien steerage passengers; and he wanted to know, in the first place, if there were twenty such persons as he had described on board a liner, whether they would be allowed to land at all in Ireland? In the second place, how and where were they to proceed in order to satisfy the immigration officer? There was a great stream of emigrants from Ireland to the United States every year, and a certain proportion of these emigrants returned to Ireland. Irish emigrants to America were of two classes—those who were successful, and those who were unsuccessful. Anyone who knew the congested districts of Ireland must be familiar with the sight of a large house which had a certain look of prosperity about it in the midst of desolation. It generally turned out on examination that that was the house of a man who had been in America, had made some little money, and had returned to spend the remainder of his days in his native land. They did not come as cabin passengers, and if they travelled in a vessel which carried twenty alien steerage passengers they would fall under the restrictions of the Bill, and would have to satisfy the immigration officer that they were proper persons to be allowed to land. Such people would, no doubt, have some money in their pockets and might be able to satisfy the immigration officer that they were not paupers, but still they would be put to a great deal of quite unnecessary inconvenience.

That might be a very serious matter, but there was another class. Unhappily it was only too common for Irish boys and girls to go to the United States and find that country not the golden land of promise which they had been led to expect, but only a land of disappointments. He knew himself of girls who had gone from their little mountain homes to the great cities of America, like New York, Chicago, or St. Louis where the climate and the conditions of life were so different from that of their native land. After being in service for some years, possibly they married and became citizens of the United States. Their health failed them, and the desire came to return to their old homes. Now, how was such a girl to satisfy the immigration officer at a distant port from her old home, where she knew that there would always be a welcome for her and a share of such poor fare as the family had? She had no money in her pocket; perhaps she had only been able to scrape up the money for her steerage passage. She presented herself at Moville or Liverpool and was met by an English immigration officer who would say, "You are not a British subject; you are an alien; and you have no means of support." She would reply "Yes; but I am going back to my family," and would mention the name of the mountain hamlet, of which the immigration officer had most probably never heard. Was it really intended, under cover of this Bill, which professed to be directed against criminals and undesirables, that the British Government was going to deny that girl a refuge with her family in her old home? Were these people to be exposed to the humiliation and the possible risk involved in this Bill. If Ireland wished to support her children who had failed in the struggle of life in the United States, that was no affair of the Government. Ireland was ready to welcome them back; and the Government had no right to prevent Ireland affording them an asylum which it was ready to give.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) said he was entirely in sympathy with the proposition in the Amendment, should that be the result of the operation of the Bill. He had listened to the Home Secretary's statement that any Irish-born American who desired to return home to his mother country would not be considered to come under the terms of the Bill. That might not be the interpretation of hon. Gentlemen opposite, but it was the interpretation of the Minister in charge of the Bill. He confessed that aliens in Ireland at the present time were not receiving the treatment from hon. Members opposite that they ought to receive. There were aliens in Ireland who were considered by hon.

Members opposite to be so undesirable that they could not get a means of livelihood.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where.

MR. SLOAN: In Limerick.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I desire to contradict in the strongest terms the unfounded assertion the hon. Member has made, and he knows it is unfounded.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): On what authority does the hon. Member make that statement.

MR. JOYCE: Withdraw and apologise to Limerick.

MR. SLOAN: The hon. Member need not get into such a heat.

MR. JOYCE: I am as cool as a cucumber when I am dealing with people like you.

MR. SLOAN: I have had occasion to bring before the House the case of the class of people I refer to in Limerick who have not only been boycotted but are refused the means of livelihood and the necessaries of life.

MR. JOYCE: I again contradict this statement and say it is false from beginning to end.

MR. SLOAN: I appeal, Sir, to you—

THE CHAIRMAN: The whole discussion is entirely out of order.

MR. SLOAN: The hon. Gentleman has the same privileges in this House as I have.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N): No man has the privilege to lie.

THE CHAIRMAN: I hope hon. Members on both sides will restrain themselves. This question is not in order, and I must ask the hon. Member to pass from it at once.

MR. SLOAN said he would bow to the ruling of the Chair. He went on to say that if the possible cases cited by hon. Members opposite came under the operation of the Bill they would have a case, but he could not understand how the Bill could be interpreted to mean that an Irish-born American returning to spend the remainder of his days in his native land would be described by the Home Secretary of the day as an undesirable alien. He could not further understand how it could be stated that a person coming from America to visit his friends in Ireland, and who had a return ticket, would be considered as coming under the operation of the Bill. If this Amendment was carried, Ireland would become the dumping ground for those people whom Great Britain refused to allow in. Ireland was a part of the United Kingdom and deserved the protection of this Bill, and that was the reason he objected to the Amendment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the Government had the greatest possible sympathy with the Amendment; but the hon. Gentleman who moved it would admit that if Ireland were exempted there would be an influx of aliens into the country which Ireland did not want any more than Great Britain. There would be two ports in Ireland under the Bill.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) asked if Queenstown would be one.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that probably it would. The Government had not the slightest desire to keep out of Ireland the class of persons to whom the hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment referred; and, while it was not possible to accept the Amendment as proposed, the Government were perfectly ready to consider the matter with a view to achieving the object in view, with which he entirely sympathised.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said the speech of the Attorney-General had eased the position somewhat, but with reference to what the hon. Member for South Belfast had said, he would like to say that the argument of the hon. Member had been built on what the Home Secretary had said. But they were not concerned with what the

Home Secretary said. They had built a good many arguments upon what the Chief Secretary for Ireland had said and they had suffered for it. He appealed to the hon. Member for South Belfast to shut out from view what the Home Secretary had said and to see what Section 8 of the Bill said. Section 8 said that the expression "immigrant" meant an alien steerage passenger who landed in the United Kingdom. Therefore, any Irishman who had gone to America in his early days, and had been naturalised there, who returned to the old country was an alien if he came steerage, which he was likely to do, and as an alien was subject to all the prohibitions of the Bill. That was a monstrous thing and Irish Members of all Parties should not submit to it. It applied not only to Queenstown but to Moville, to Belfast, to Derry, and every part of Ireland. He did not care for the purpose of his argument whether the Attorney-General made two ports in Ireland or not. That did not abolish Section 8 of the Bill. So long as the definition stood, so long would these hundreds and thousands of Irishmen who returned to their native land be subject to all these prohibitions. They would fight against that to the end. It was not fair of the Attorney-General to say he would confer with the Irish Members on the subject. He was glad the right hon. Gentleman realised the impossibility of passing the Bill in its present shape. It was the business of the Government to introduce Bills in proper form. They never could have considered the effect of this upon the thousands of Irish-Americans yearly returning to Ireland from America, and he for one would not stand it.

Sir JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said he wished to ask the Attorney-General whether the inclusion of Ireland was necessary or not. It always appeared to him that some kind of alien legislation was rendered necessary by the action of the United States. The Government there decided whether a cargo of immigrants should be admitted or not. If immigrants were rejected because of bad character, lunacy, or any other reason the shipping company concerned was obliged to take them back to Europe; and the most convenient part of Europe to which they could be taken was Ireland. He understood that this was now actually being done, and that lunatics had been brought back and dumped down in Ireland and had become an expense to the local authorities of Ireland. The question he wished to ask the hon. and learned Gentleman was whether, under the provisions of the Bill as they stood or as they would stand when amended by the Government Amendments, there was power to stop things of that kind. He desired to point out that these people would not come back in large batches but in ones and twos, and therefore would not come within the provisions of the Bill, and might be landed in Ireland under the very noses of the authorities without there being power to stop them. What he wished to ask the Attorney-General was whether there were in the Bill any provisions which would enable us to prevent those immigrants who had been rejected by the United States from being dumped in Ireland.

Mr. WALLACE (Perth) asked whether it was not a fact that the shipping companies were compelled to take those whom the United States rejected back to the country from whence they came.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight) said two new facts had arisen in consequence of this Amendment as to which he would like to ask a Question. First of all, was it a fact that the Home Secretary intended to make provision that where any man had a return ticket he should be exempted from the provisions of this Bill? He understood the right hon. Gentleman to state that, and if it were so it was as well to know it. Secondly, was it not the fact that the Home Secretary proposed to provide that any one born within these islands would be exempt from the provisions of this Bill? Those were very important matters, both of which affected the position of Ireland.

Mr. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) asked whether there was any provision in the Bill under which it would be possible to make any exemptions at all. Until the inconvenience of the examination had occurred how could any exemptions be made.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he understood the Questions of the right hon. Member for Cambridge related to two points; one, whether persons born in Ireland who had gone to the United States and who having become naturalised had come back were to be regarded as aliens, and the other, what was the nature of the provisions of the Bill for preventing persons of a very different class, who had been rejected by the United States, being dumped down in Ireland. He would not like to give a positive Answer at the moment to the first Question for the reason that though it was well known at common law that a British subject could not divest himself of his nationality by becoming naturalised in a foreign country, exceptions had been introduced by statute. Before returning a positive Answer to that Question he would like to have the assistance of the Foreign Office as to what conventions had been made with the United States. The matter was one eminently deserving of attention, and he could only repeat that nothing was further from the wishes of the Government than to prevent a particular class of persons from returning to their own country. As to the question of the provision for preventing rejected immigrants to America being landed in Ireland that had been explained by the Home Secretary. No such persons, being aliens, could be landed from immigrant ships except at those ports marked out as ports of arrival by the Aliens Board, and then only after proper examination. The power to reduce the number of "twenty" could and no doubt would be exercised if the question arose, so as to prevent the dumping of immigrants in Ireland. He was not able to say whether the laws of the United States required a ship to take rejected aliens back to the country from which they came. The first Question asked by the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight he had already answered and with regard to the second, with reference to return tickets, he did not think this was the time or place to consider that question. If the hon. and gallant Gentleman desired an Answer he would suggest that the hon. and gallant Gentleman should ask the Home Secretary for the information, which he (Sir Robert Finlay) was not in a position to afford.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) thought it was very hard, in the face of the opposition of those who represented the majority of the opinion of Ireland, that this measure should be pressed on that country, in which there had been no demand for it. If there was any demand for this measure it existed in certain quarters in England where there was great pressure of population and where it became the interest of particular individuals for Party or other reasons to raise this question. He agreed with the hon. Member for Cork, who pointed out that some of the most useful inhabitants of Ireland were the descendants of those who could not have landed in Ireland if this law had been in operation centuries ago. Ireland had been a refuge to those who had been driven from other countries by tyranny and oppression, and the descendants of many of those who sought its hospitality lived there to-day. He thought it was most unreasonable to press this measure on Ireland. All Nationalist Members asked was that when a change was being made which at the best was a departure from the traditions of a great and free country, such an organic change should not, in spite of the remonstrances of her representatives, be forced upon Ireland, where no necessity or demand whatever existed for the measure. The retention of Ireland within the scope of the Bill simply afforded another argument in favour of enabling Ireland to legislate for herself so far as questions affecting the locality were concerned.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that when he spoke last he had not the statute before him. He could now inform the Committee that Section 6 of the Naturalisation Act, 1870, provided that a British-born subject on becoming voluntarily naturalised in a foreign country would cease to be a British subject, except when, with a particular class of case, he made a declaration that he desired to remain a British subject.

Mr. BRYCE said the statement of the Attorney-General made the question raised by the Amendment much more important, inasmuch as the number of persons who, having become naturalised, returned from the United States to visit relatives in Ireland was very large indeed. If the Government intended to keep Ireland within the scope of the clause it was obviously necessary that they should make some provision to meet these cases.

*__Mr. EMMOTT__ (Oldham) agreed that there was some weight in the objection that if Ireland were excluded from the clause she would remain open to the landing of undesirables while England was closed. But what he particularly desired to call attention to was the way in which the scope, expense, and difficulties of the Bill were being made increasingly plain. Two ports had now been added for Ireland, whereas none had been mentioned before, and both the Home Secretary and the Attorney-General had acknowledged the validity of the objections raised by his hon. friend. The case for the Bill had never been made out, but if it had, the Bill ought to have been more thorough and to have covered all the ports in the country.

Mr. POWER (Waterford, E.) said there was no doubt that this question was one about which it was easy to speak on the platform, and for which there was no difficulty in suggesting general remedies, but when one came to close quarters, it was seen that it was an extremely difficult matter to deal with. The provisions which had been so far submitted to the Committee, instead of mitigating would only increase the existing difficulties and to a large extent dislocate trade. As to the prevention of the coming of undesirable lunatics and so forth into Ireland, the Irish people would be very grateful to the right hon. Gentleman if he could stop the deportation of paupers from England to Ireland—a practice of daily occurrence, and the subject of much complaint. Then with regard to the possession of return tickets. Hundreds of people, having amassed a little money in America, came back to Ireland with the intention of remaining in the country; they constituted some of the best of the Irish people, but they would probably be hit by the provisions of the Bill. Moreover, the carrying out of the Act would be in the hands of the police, who did not inspire the same confidence in Ireland as in England. In its present form he feared the measure would have little effect in the direction hoped for, but would produce confusion and chaos, and dislocate trade all over the country.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the Attorney-General now declared—as most Members who had looked into the subject knew before—that a returned immigrant who had become naturalised in America would be in the position of an alien under the Bill. The hon. and learned Gentleman had also admitted that that was a fair ground of complaint. Were the Committee justified in regarding that as an undertaking on the part of the Attorney-General that words should be introduced to meet the case?

Sir ROBERT FINLAY. What I said was that we were very desirous of introducing words with that object, and that if such a form of words could be devised without prejudice to the general purpose of the Bill, the Government would be willing to insert them.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said he would take that as an undertaking that if words were proposed the Government would insert them.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he would endeavour to find a form of words, and if any form could be found which would not damage the general purpose of the Bill, the Government would gladly insert them.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said that was a very cautious statement, and he was unwilling to abandon the discussion without a clear understanding that the Government would do their best honestly to meet this grievance.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY. Certainly we are going to endeavour to do it. I do not think the hon. and learned

Member can reasonably ask me to go further than I have done.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he did not ask the Attorney-General to settle the words off-hand, but he did expect that when the proper portion of the Bill was reached words should be proposed to carry out the pledge just given. There now remained the broad question of whether Ireland ought to be included in the Bill. Personally he objected to the Bill, and if he had his way he would not enact it for either England or Ireland. But as a practical man he had to look at the matter from another point of view. If this measure, which for reasons he need not go into he regarded as a most objectionable one, was to be enacted for Great Britain, he was not in favour of the exclusion of Ireland, because if Ireland were excluded there would be the gravest possible danger of her being made the dumping-ground of undesirables, some of whom would attempt to filter through to England, but the great majority of whom would remain in Ireland. Therefore, he would advise his hon. friend to be content with the concession he had obtained on the narrower point and not divide on the Amendment.

*MR. HIGHAM (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) desired to point out how illusory were the promises made by the Home Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the possession of a return ticket would be a sufficient voucher to permit of a person landing.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I did not say that a return ticket would be so accepted at all. I said that I did not imagine that the class referred to by the mover of the Amendment would be shut out at all. I thought that they would be able to satisfy the immigration officer as to their *status*, and that the fact of their having relatives in Ireland would be a very great help to them in so doing.

*MR. HIGHAM submitted that these matters ought to be dealt with in the Bill; they ought not to depend upon conversations across the floor of the House. Whether Ireland were excluded or not the Bill would not apply as between England and Ireland, so that the lunatics to whom reference had been made would not be affected. Having arrived in Ireland, say at Queenstown, they had merely to be transhipped to any boat trading or carrying passengers between Ireland and England, and then their deportation from Ireland to England would be completed, as no one here could raise objection to the landing of a passenger from Ireland. This showed the enormous difficulties which faced the administration of this Bill. Thousands of people came over here on short holidays who were naturalised Americans and had been in America half their lifetime. They wished to spend a month or two in this country and they would be subjected to all the indignities of this Bill. They would have to prove that they had the means to maintain themselves, and prove also that they were not lunatics or idiots. The right hon. Gentleman had said that if he could devise words he would meet them, but the proper way to proceed would be to strike out the whole of that part of the clause. Lancashire and Yorkshire had against the Bill as it stood a grievance just as strong as Ireland. Cotton operatives went to the States, settled there, and often in later life visited their friends in the North of England. They were to be faced with these most unreasonable proposals, and they asked at least that there should be omitted from the Bill Sub-section (3) (*a*) of the first clause, which was worded—

> "(3) For the purposes of this section an immigrant shall be considered an undesirable immigrant—
>
> (*a*) if he cannot show that he has in his possession or is in a position to obtain the means of decently supporting himself and his dependents (if any)."

There would then be very little difficulty about the acceptance of the Bill on his side of the House.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said he understood that this Amendment dealt with Irish immigrants who returned from America and desired to spend a short time with their friends in Ireland. This matter had occupied the attention of the great shipping lines which carried these passengers, and it had been carefully brought to the notice of those concerned that this class of immigrant was one with which it was most essential no interference should take place. The same thing applied to the Scandinavians who were brought to Liverpool, and if that traffic was to be continued it was essential that it should be free from irritating and vexatious restrictions. At a later stage of the Bill he had an Amendment on the Paper which he hoped would receive favourable consideration at the hands of his right hon. friend, and that Amendment proposed to exempt altogether from the scope of this Bill steamers coming into our ports in that way which were able to satisfy the Government and the authorities that no undesirable immigrants would be landed from them. He thought that was the only satisfactory way in which this great trade could be safeguarded from the operations of this Bill. No less than 107,000 of this class of passengers were brought yearly into Liverpool, and amongst them, with the exception of a few immigrants rejected in the United States, what might be called the undesirable alien was a *rara avis* for whom no special legislation was needed. Anything like the wholesale inspection of that traffic in the port of Liverpool would be most disastrous to that trade.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is dealing with a question which is hardly in order on this Amendment, which refers to Ireland and not to Liverpool.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said the Amendment he had down would come later on in Clause 1 and he thought it would meet this case. He hoped when they reached that part of the Bill, if ever they did reach it, that it might receive favourable consideration.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LOUGH said he hoped the Home Secretary would give due consideration to the Amendment he was about to move. At the stage at which they had arrived the immigrant ship was now brought in, and he did not see why it should be brought in at all. Surely it would be better to strike out those words and leave the clause to apply generally rather than to a particular kind of ship. He thought this objection would strike everybody who thought over the matter for a moment. According to this Bill an immigrant ship was one who brought more than twenty passengers, but they had been warned that Amendments would be proposed to reduce the number to ten or fifteen. Moreover, there was already power in the Bill to reduce the number at the discretion of the Government Department. The immigrant ship was to be of a particular kind in which alien steerage passengers came over. British Members of the House as a rule knew nothing about the horrors that might be connected with immigrant ships. Years ago they used to be called coffin ships, and what he wished to point out was that this Bill would tend to create a bad class of ship of that kind. The tendency of the trade was to carry these alien immigrants in the most splendid ships that crossed the ocean, and they provided them with good accommodation. If, however, this Bill became law they would be creating for this traffic a different kind of ship, and, moreover, the Home Secretary was retaining power to declare that a ship was not an immigrant ship if the owners satisfied him with regard to the regulations. Therefore a stigma would rest upon the immigrant ship. He thought the House ought seriously to consider whether it was desirable to create a lower class of vessel like this, thus interfering with the humane tendency of carrying these poor people on the very best ships. He thought the Home Secretary would relieve himself of a very great difficulty if he would strike out the words "immigrant ship." These were very unsatisfactory powers to give to a State Department, because there would be a tendency to favour certain ports, and the introduction of this "immigrant ship" considerably enlarged the scope of this undesirable tendency. If the right hon. Gentleman was going to make a concession on this point, he trusted that he would not do it after waiting till it had been discussed for an hour or two, but do it at once. It would considerably expedite the progress of the Bill if the Home Secretary would announce his concessions at once. He begged leave to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words 'from an immigrant ship.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said they had discussed this question upon an Amendment which had already been under consideration, upon which he pointed out the effect of taking out those words. This particular Amendment attacked the principle of the Bill, and by adopting it hardship would be inflicted, inasmuch as it would close to foreigners all the ports of the United Kingdom except those in which the machinery was set up.

MR. LOUGH said that in view of what the right hon. Gentleman had said he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said he desired to move the Amendment which stood in his name. This was an Amendment to strengthen the Bill, whereas the Amendments which had been moved up to the present had been designed to weaken it. He hoped the Home Secretary would be able to give them some assurance that he would reduce the number of aliens below twenty. He desired not only to restrain the admission of alien immigrants when they arrived in large numbers, but also desired to prevent them landing in England in small numbers. He thought undesirable aliens should not be allowed to come to this country, whether they came in batches of twenty or in twos and threes. It would be said that if his Amendment were carried enormous expense would be caused at the ports in providing the necessary machinery. Persons who had given attention to this subject knew that the real effect of the Bill would not be seen actually when the examination of the immigrants took place in British ports. The real effect would be seen in the countries whence the immigrants came. The agencies which now induced many of these unfortunate people to come would no longer have the commercial incentive they had at present. When an emigrant came to such a port as Hamburg he would be subjected to an examination so thorough before being allowed to embark that the examination in the English port would not be so costly as some hon. Gentlemen seemed to imagine.

The question of free ports which had been alluded to certainly did raise a difficulty. If, as hon. Gentlemen opposite had suggested, shipowners would be able to devise means whereby they would be able to land parties of immigrants in one of these so-called free ports, a great evil would arise. It would be necessary in that case to induce the authorities to establish machinery at the ports where the traffic was being carried on, and those who had had to deal with Government Departments knew that that might be a matter of difficulty. Hon. Members who supported the Bill should bear in mind that if it became law the administration of it would not always necessarily be in friendly hands. Possibly some hon. Gentleman who now sat opposite might later on hold the position of Home Secretary, and it would be very easy for a Home Secretary who was opposed to the provisions of the Bill so to frame the regulations as to render the measure a dead letter; he could raise the number of immigrants so as to allow aliens to arrive in small or large numbers. His right hon. friend might by reducing the number be able to prevent the infiltration of aliens in the way hon. Gentlemen on his side of the House desired. He hoped his right hon. friend would be able to give at this stage some assurance that the wording of the Bill would be so altered as to cover not only the arrival of aliens in bulk but all undesirable aliens who came in smaller numbers.

This was not only a question of keeping out criminals. It was also an economic question. He was anxious to take this opportunity, the only one he had had of speaking on the Bill in the House, to point out that, whether aliens arrived in large parties or threes or fours, if owing to the lower standard of life and the insanitary conditions under which they lived an evil resulted, as he thought it did, then the Bill should be so framed as to show the aliens that they would not be able to come here and pull down the standard of life of the working people of this country. A great deal more might be said in support of the Amendment, but it was quite unnecessary to take up the time of the Committee, as this Bill had been fully discussed in most of its aspects. The shipowning interest of which they had heard so much from the other side of the House was not inimical to the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out from the word 'ship,' to the word 'given,' in line 9, and insert the words 'without the leave of an immigration officer appointed under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said this suggestion meant practically the setting up of machinery under the Bill at every port in the Kingdom, and for that reason alone he could not accept it. As he had explained again and again, the basis upon which the Bill was put forward was the dealing with the alien traffic in bulk. The figures in the Board of Trade Returns showed that the bulk of the traffic went on at a very few ports, and he did not wish to set up machinery the cost of which would be out of proportion to the advantage to be gained. It was not actually necessary to put this embargo on these free ports. Should events show a necessity, ports could be declared under the Bill and the number of immigrants might be modified. Suggestions had been made from both sides of the House that some such reduction in the figure would be necessary immediately. He acknowledged that when they came to discuss that clause he would consider whether the figure of twenty should not be reduced so as to avoid an amendment of the Bill soon after it was passed.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said that after the statement of the right hon. Gentleman he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Mr. DALZIEL said that, while they were anxious to make progress with this Bill, it was desirable to consider every Amendment on its merits. The Amendment moved by the hon. Member opposite was evidently to justify his position with his constituents, but from his own point of view it was logical, because it could carry out the object which the Bill was intended to affect. It would keep out every undesirable alien from this country. At the same time, he insisted that the Bill, as it stood, would not affect that purpose, because undesirables could come in provided they were not in large parties. He was amused to hear the right hon. Gentleman talk of the increased expense that would be involved if the Amendment were adopted. He, himself, pointed that out last year, but that did not alarm the right hon. Gentleman; he was then the champion of increased expense. So that, after all, one result of the discussions on the Bill last year was to make a notable convert to economy. After that, he hoped no more would be heard about the obstructive tactics of the Opposition last year. He maintained that if the Government wanted to really carry out the professed objects of this measure, they were bound to have an immigration officer at every port in the kingdom. Supposing a ship brought 500 immigrants and that fifty of them were rejected, and the shipowners were compelled to take them back to the port of embarkation what would happen? An enterprising agent would take charge of them and split them up into three or four different parties. The result would be that all of them would come into other ports in this country without any check. The fact was the whole Bill was a sham and a humbug. He, himself, was opposed to the introduction of undesirable aliens, but they could not provide machinery to effectually achieve the purpose in view, although the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman opposite came nearer to accomplishing it than the Bill as it at present stood. The right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary had made one or two remarks which gave some cause for alarm. In the first place, he was going to reduce the number of alien passengers to some figure below twenty. It was desirable to know, while this discussion was proceeding, what the new number was to be. Then he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman not to delay longer in giving the Committee his full mind as to the number of ports he was going to list.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) asked if the Home Secretary denied that every undesirable alien who had been rejected at one of the specified ports could not be prevented from coming in at any other port in the United Kingdom?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS was understood to say that he had stated over and over again that an undesirable who had been sent back to his own country could, if he did not come in an "immigrant ship," return to a free port in this country.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said that if the Amendment now before the Committee were rejected, and the right hon. Gentleman adhered to the system in the Bill by which eight ports were listed, and the other ports were left open, the undesirable alien could come over again to a non-listed port where there was no immigration officer and no machinery to reject him. The consequence would be that the Bill would be perfectly futile for the object in view.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) suggested that the difficulty might be got over without putting the whole of this expensive machinery into operation in the non-listed ports. The Government might appoint the port sanitary authority at the non-listed ports who was always a medical officer—as the immigration officer for that port. In that way alien lunatics, imbeciles, and diseased persons would be rejected by the medical officer at those ports.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that the suggestion of his hon. friend had been considered last year, and it had been found to be totally impossible to apply such a system to the large night excursion traffic across the Channel. There were sometimes as many as 1,500 workmen carried at reduced rates as passengers in the cross-Channel steamers, and it would be absolutely impossible in such a case to carry out the proposal of his hon. friend.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said it was desired generally in the House that there should be an opportunity of examining the immigrants on land, but only on the condition that the immigrants disembarked for that purpose did not pass out of the hands of the shipowners. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name on the Paper.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'ship' to insert the words 'or elsewhere if the immigrants are conditionally disembarked for the purpose.'"—(*Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he did not wish to detain the Committee by debating the merits of the Amendment, which he thought would improve the Bill. But something fell from the right hon. Gentleman to the effect that the buildings required and the conditional inspection and detention of the immigrants disembarked should be provided at the cost of the shipping companies. A great deal of solicitude for the immigrants had been displayed on both sides of the House.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) asked whether his Amendment should not come on at this point?

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Amendment could not be moved unless a Resolution was first passed in Committee of Ways and Means authorising the money payment.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that this was the first time since the Bill had been drafted that it had been made plain to the Committee that provision for the disembarkation of immigrants for the purpose of inspection would be necessary. The right hon. Gentleman definitely pointed out that facilities for inspection would have to be provided, and under these circumstances the question of the cost of those facilities became important. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the cost of keeping those immigrants was to fall upon the shipping companies, and the were also to be at the cost of erecting structures, temporary or permanent, for this inspection. Had they been contemplating the Bill as it originally stood he might not be disposed to press this matter, but this was a new departure, and the limits to which it was going to be pressed in the future were not clearly defined. It was better, therefore, at the outset to state the views of the shipping companies. They did not think it fair that the cost of erecting those buildings should be thrown on their shoulders.

THE CHAIRMAN said the particular Amendment before the House did not impose cost on anybody. It only sanctioned the landing. It was obvious something must be done afterwards, and the point that the hon. Member was raising would come later on, by the Amendment of the hon. Member.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR submitted that the Amendment dealt with the question of landing immigrants for the purpose of appealing. But before the appeal was reached these immigrants might be temporarily disembarked for inspection to see if they were disqualified; it was only when they were disqualified the question of appeal arose. He would propose to deal with the question by an Amendment suggesting that any accommodation which might be provided for the purpose of such investigation should be provided by the Secretary of State.

THE CHAIRMAN said that would not be in order, because that would put a charge on the State.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR asked whether it would be in order to move an Amendment that the cost of constructing any accommodation required for such inspection should not be borne by the shipowners.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was extremely awkward to have to deal with an Amendment he had not seen, and suggested that the hon. Gentleman should set his Amendment down on paper, so that it might be considered while the Committee was discussing the Amendment now before it.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) appealed to the Secretary of State to add at the end of his Amendment the words, "for the purpose of inspection or special inquiry." As the words now stood, it was obvious that the places referred to could only be used for the purpose of inspection. But of those who landed at least 8 per cent. would have to be detained for inquiries to be made, and it was to enable these places to be used for both purposes that he suggested these words.

MR. LOUGH expressed the opinion that some of the difficulties felt by hon. Members opposite could be avoided if they would discuss briefly but intelligibly the Amendment of the Home Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman was meeting to a certain extent a suggestion which he (Mr. Lough) had made at an earlier stage. He had objected to the delay which might be caused to shipping by having this inspection on board, and he had suggested that the immigrants should be allowed to land and be examined on shore. The right hon. Gentleman having now made this proposal, this was the time to discuss the matter. It was not only a question for the shipowners but also for the public and trade generally to consider whether conditional landing should be allowed, and that was the object of the Amendment. He took leave to point out, however, that if the right hon. Gentleman compelled the shipping companies to bear the cost, they would take care that the buildings erected should be of an exclusive character and should only be used by those who paid for them. He contended that if a public institution of this character was to be set up it could only be set up at the cost of the Government or the municipalities. It would not be right or just to allow private individuals, at their own cost, to founp institutions at certain places for public purposes. He thought the object of the hon. Member would be met, therefore, by discussing the difficulties of the situation without formulating any particular Amendment.

MR. LEIF JONES asked for an explanation of the Amendment of the Secretary of State. He said complaint had been made that hon. Members did not read the Bill, and, therefore, he had very carefully read the clause in conjunction with this Amendment, and the result was, as it seemed to him, the two together did not make sense. The clause read—

> "An immigrant . . . shall not be landed at any such port without the leave of that officer given after an inspection of the immigrants made by him on the ship."

to which words the right hon. Gentleman proposed to add—

> "Or elsewhere if the immigrants are conditionally disembarked for the purpose."

He did not raise this as a point of order but to ask for some explanation, as it appeared to him that they were asked to say that an immigrant should not be allowed to land until after an inspection had been made on board ship or elsewhere which must mean on land.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said he thought a distinction was to be drawn between a landing and a conditional landing. A landing, under certain conditions, might be revoked, and in that case the immigrants would have to be returned to the ship.

*MR. EMMOTT asked the Chairman's ruling as to whether the Amendment was in order or not.

THE CHAIRMAN was understood to reply that he would give his ruling shortly.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he had an Amendment on the Paper to provide that a conditional landing should not be a landing under the Bill.

MR. FORDE RIDLEY (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said that the word "disembarking" made perfect sense. It was not a landing.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the word "landing" in the first line of the clause means a permanent landing, and that the words of the Amendment provide for a conditional landing only.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he would submit that there was no difference between the words "landing" and 'disembarked." Disembarked meant to land from a bark. [An HON. MEMBER: You may disembark into a boat.] He begged pardon. They did not disembark into a boat. Disembark meant taken from a ship and put on the land, and, consequently, if this Amendment were adopted, it would mean that an immigrant should not be landed until he had been inspected by an officer on being landed for that purpose. It was a contradiction in terms. It was really enacting that he was both to be landed and not to be landed. He submitted to the acumen and lexicographical knowledge of the Attorney-General that really and truly the Amendment defeated the first part of the clause.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he was very much afraid that the hon. Member for the Appleby Division had overlooked the Amendment which stood lower down on the Paper in the name of the Home Secretary, who proposed, at the end of line 22 of the clause, to insert the words "but an immigrant conditionally disembarked shall not be deemed to have been landed so long as the conditions are complied with." He was glad the matter gave hon. Gentlemen opposite so much harmless amusement, but there was really no difficulty about it. Sub-section 2 of Clause 2 gave power to the Secretary of State to make rules with respect to the conditional landing of immigrants for the purpose of appeals or otherwise. If hon. Members would look at the matter with the desire to see how the thing would work, they would at once be alive to the fact that, if they allowed a man to be landed, he might go where he pleased. He had his liberty to go into any part of the United Kingdom and was no longer under any surveillance whatever. But, in certain cases it might be found more convenient, before he was let loose, if he might use the expression, in the United Kingdom, that the examination should take place, not on board ship, but on shore. For that purpose he was to be conditionally disembarked, but his conditional disembarkation was not to amount to a landing, enabling him to proceed where he liked. It was extremely easy to make very small jokes on the subject, and he did not grudge hon. Members opposite any amusement they could derive from those jokes, though he thought the amusement was almost entirely confined to their authors.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he desired to fortify himself in the definition he had given of the word "disembarked" by a quotation from the latest lexicographical authority, which his noble friend the Member for Greenwich had just handed to him. The Oxford Dictionary defined "disembark" as "to put ashore from a ship, to land." Would that satisfy his hon. and learned friend the Attorney-General?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he was much obliged to his hon. friend, but if he could tear himself away from his literary studies for a moment, he thought he would find it more germane to the subject to look at the regulations in force in the country where this practice was in actual operation than to be turning up dictionaries. Article 4 of the regulations in force in the United States provided that whenever it should be necessary, in making the examination of immigrants, temporarily to remove them from the vessel to a desirable place for examination—

> "Such immigrants shall not be regarded as landed so long as they are undergoing examination and are under the control of an officer, and such removal shall not be considered a landing during the pendency of any question relating to the examination."

THE CHAIRMAN said that as this philological discussion had arisen out of a point of order he might say that in his opinion there was sufficient distinction between "landed" and "conditionally disembarked" to allow the Amendment to proceed.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he desired to direct the attention of the Committee to the important question of who was to provide this accommodation. The shipowners objected to the expense being put on their shoulders and desired that it should be borne by the community, for whose benefit it was incurred. A Resolution authorising the expenditure of money under this Bill would, he understood, be submitted to the House, and he hoped that, between now and the introduction of that Resolution, the Home Secretary would reconsider the matter and propose that the expense necessitated by the provision of this accommodation should be borne by the community.

MR. BRYCE asked if they were right in understanding from the Government that the cost of this provision was to be borne by the shipowners. If that were so, he should like to know how it was to be arranged that the shipowners should find quarters. Immigrants would have to be kept, so to speak, in bond. That task it might be possible for the Government to carry out; but it would be very difficult for the shipowner to carry it out. In the United States the difficulty was met by the Government dealing with the matter. The emigrant ships were obliged to send tenders disembarking the emigrants upon an island. It was very desirable that the Home Secretary should say what facilities were to be given to shipowners to enable them to provide or to obtain the necessary accommodation. Another question was as to the provision to be made by the Act for preventing the escape of immigrants and for compelling them to re-embark in case of their rejection. In the United States all that was done by the Government, but here, apparently, it was to be the duty of the shipowner. What powers would shipowners have in this country for the purpose of compelling a rejected immigrant to re-embark? As far as he could see, there was no provision whatever in that respect in the Bill.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that on the previous evening he was asked whether the Government intended to provide facilities at the landing stages for the purpose of examination or for any purpose under the Act. He said then that it was not the intention of the Government to ask the community to make such provision. In the United States the circumstances were entirely different from those existing here. There these facilities were undoubtedly provided by the State, but a tax was levied on each immigrant. Here it was a concession to the shipowner that the examination should not take place on board ship. The profit arising from this trade put a considerable sum into the pockets of the shipowners, and if these further facilities were desired by them they ought not to be provided at the expense of the community. He was advised by the shipowners that practically all the necessary facilities existed in the principal ports to which the ships carrying immigrants came. They themselves had depots and warehouses at the quay side. Therefore, he did not think any serious hardship or expense was likely to be placed on the shipowners. But if expense was incurred by them it must be regarded as a payment for the purpose of avoiding examination on board ship.

*Mr. STUART SAMUEL said it was very well for the Home Secretary to consider mainly the expense of these buildings, but the immigrant had also got to be considered. These examinations would have to take place on the cheap, otherwise the cost to the country would be greater than a continuance of the present evils. The expenses of carrying into operation this measure would be so great that it would be far more economical to grant an old-age pension to every alien at present maintained at the cost of the State. According to this proposal the immigrant was to be detained by the direction of the Government, and the shipping companies were to provide the accommodation and house him. The right hon. Gentleman spoke about the examination taking place upon the quay side. Did the Home Secretary propose that women and children, and people suffering from sea sickness, should be examined on the quay side? Frequently these people were landed in the middle of the night. They had been told that the Bill would not disturb the transmigrants, but was it likely that they would continue to come *via* this country if they could be taken as cheaply by other lines which did not come to our ports? British lines could now carry these transmigrants cheaper than foreign lines, but if the hardships of this Bill were put upon the shipowners they would have to charge more for passengers and there was a great danger that the whole of this valuable carrying trade would be lost to this country. It was convenient to say that the shipping companies would pay it, but eventually the charge would have to be paid by the passengers. He hoped the Home Secretary would reconsider this question not only on account of the shipping companies, but also from the point of view of the transmigrants, who would not come through this country if they were subjected to the hardships imposed under this clause.

Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR said he wished to direct the Home Secretary's attention to what appeared to him to be an analogous case, and that was the regulations of the Merchant Shipping Act in regard to the inspection which took place at the present time. Section 360 of the Merchant Shipping Act provided that no emigrant ship should go to sea until there had been an inspection of the emigrants by a medical practitioner, and it was also laid down that the inspection should take place on board or at such convenient place as the emigration officer appointed. If the officer appointed a place on shore he took it that the expense was defrayed by the public. He did not see how the officer could appoint a place maintained by the shipowner. He maintained that accommodation provided in the public interest ought to be provided at the public cost.

Mr. LOUGH said it ought to be clear to the Home Secretary that the explanation he had given of this matter would not do. Even admitting that in most cases provision already existed the right hon. Gentleman would have to provide for the remaining cases. He wished to point out that at the present time two dollars was charged in America to the shipowners upon every immigrant landed, and out of that sum an asylum for them was kept up. The place provided for this purpose in New York cost about £90,000 a year, and he understood that the cost had been doubled quite recently. Did the Home Secretary mean to allow the port authorities to levy on the shipowners a certain charge in respect of each immigrant, and then out of the fund to establish inspection premises? It was perfectly clear that a public establishment would be absolutely necessary. It would not do to have a private institution which might be organised by the shipowners, and which they would use for private purposes. The establishment need not be provided at the cost of the public; it might be done at the cost of the shipowners. Of course, the cost would fall indirectly on the immigrants, because the shipowners would pass it on to them. It was now time to say openly whether the establishment was to be a public institution. The shipowners had gone to the Home Secretary in secret and had accepted from him an arrangement that would not work—at least he thought it would not work. If a charge was levied on immigrants at our ports our transmigration shipping traffic would be destroyed, Ships would be run direct from Hamburg, Trieste, and other ports, and the aliens going to America would not pass through this country.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the hon. Member for West Islington had at great length dealt in about ten speeches that afternoon with various points which were not before the Committee at the particular moment he made them. [Cries of "Order."]

Mr. DALZIEL: Who are you that you should lecture Members?

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the point before the Committee was whether the words proposed by the Home Secretary should or should not be accepted. What was the suggestion? It was that an alternative should be given by way of conditional landing, and that if it was found convenient the inspection should take place on shore instead of on board ship. What would happen in practice would be that if the inspection took place on the ship it would be a matter that would not take long, while if it took place on shore it would not take much longer. But if some immigrants had to be detained for inquiry they might be detained for a week or a fortnight. There would be no necessity for large buildings where people would have to be kept, maintained, and fed. It would simply be a place where medical inspection would take place. The difficulty would be got rid of by taking the bond of the shipowner to take care of the immigrant until it was seen whether the inquiry was satisfactory or not.

Mr. HARWOOD (Bolton) said the hon. Gentleman who spoke last and also the Home Secretary had treated this matter too lightly. If they were going to pass the Bill let it be a real Bill. What was it going to do? These aliens were to be examined about their health, their means, their capacity to labour, and their moral character, and did the right hon. Gentleman think that this could be done in a moment, especially remembering that most of these people spoke in a language probably unknown to the immigration officer? Either the right hon. Gentleman was going to do things properly or he was not. How about those aliens who would be retained? They were told that in America 8 per cent. were retained. What was going to be done with them? They could not all be put back on board the ship. Surely the House would see that they were face to face with the necessity of providing very expensive machinery, and they had a right to see that what they wished to do was worth doing at this cost. It was simply ridiculous to think of turning these people into a corner of a shed provided by the shipowner. He challenged shipowners to show where there was accommodation in any port of England for the purpose. What would happen? These people would be badly treated and the consequence would be that they would not come this way. Within the last few months he had seen advertisements at railway stations in Russia and Germany warning emigrants that it would be very much better not to go through England, but to go direct by German lines, because they would have less trouble. Unless the conditions to which we subjected them were civilised the trade would be driven away. It was perfectly absurd for the Government to try to ride two horses. They were pretending to do something, but they would not pay the money to do it properly. The Home Secretary said that the shipowners told him of places where the immigrants could be accommodated. Where were those places? He did not believe they existed; but if such places were not provided great damage would be done to a most important trade.

MR. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) said he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to require that any accommodation necessary to shipowners for carrying on their trade should be provided by them and not by the public. It would be as unreasonable for shipping companies to ask that the public should provide accommodation which the law required should be made as it would be for railway companies to ask that the public should provide railway stations. He would be sorry to put any impediment in the way of any lawful trade, but the chief hope he had was that the beneficial effect of this measure would be that it would make shipowners more careful as to the class of immigrants they brought to this country, and he was not going to support any step that would make it unduly easy for them to disregard precautions which were absolutely necessary. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would persist in requiring that any accommodation for carrying on this industry should be provided by the parties who got the profit.

MR. RITCHIE (Croydon) said it had been his fate to attempt more than once, both at the Local Government Board and at the Home Office, to deal with this question of alien immigration, and he had never been able to satisfy himself about any Bill he had ever produced, because of the enormous difficulties in the way. He might say that this particular question presented to him one of the greatest difficulties which a measure of the kind could contain. Of course, he had always been in favour of a Bill of this sort, and it had seemed to him in the past, and still seemed to him, that the least difficult solution of this point was to be found in the action of the dock companies. Those companies now provided accommodation for ships and cargoes and passengers, and although he did not say that it was an] entirely satisfactory solution of the question, yet he felt pretty sure that the dock companies, wishing to attract as much custom to their docks as they could, would in the end be found ready to provide such reasonable accommodation as would be necessary for landing immigrants. No doubt they would have to be paid for it, but he did not think the charge would be high. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman was right in saying that this should not be a public charge.

MR. DALZIEL said it was useful to have the admission of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon that, with all his experience, he could not himself draft or agree on a Bill to deal with the question now under discussion. The present Government were not quite so difficult to please. The Home Secretary disclosed the fact that an enormous amount of cost would be incurred if the Amendment were adopted. Had the right hon. Gentleman considered on whom the responsibility was to rest of deciding whether the immigrants were to be landed conditionally or to remain on board ship? Who was the authority to decide whether the examination should take place on ship or on shore? Obviously it would be the desire of the captain of the ship to get rid of his cargo as soon as possible. There might be from 800 to 1,000 immigrants in that one ship and all had got to be examined by one officer. They had to be examined as to their mental capacity and physical condition; inquiries had to be made as to whether they had been convicted before coming into this country, and so on. How long was that examination going to take, for each person would occupy a considerable portion of time? Again, they might be landed late at night, and accommodation would have to be provided for them, for they would have to sleep somewhere. Who was to provide the food for the immigrants when on land, because the contracting shipping company had discharged its obligation when the immigrants stepped ashore? He presumed that the examining officer could not be a doctor and a general magistrate at the same time. In last year's Bill they were to have a board of examiners. Again, who was to be responsible for the immigrants while they were on shore? Were they going to be surrounded with a regiment of soldiers, or planted in compounds, or put into sheds like cattle, each one in a stall? Who was to be responsible if a number of them escaped in the course of examination?

There were many other points which had not been considered by the Government.

The right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary had made a good deal of the fact that the State was not to pay the cost; that the port authority would benefit from this traffic, and obviously it ought to pay. The right hon. Member for Croydon thought that the dock companies should pay; but only in very rare cases would these companies gain any advantage. Did the Home Secretary contemplate that the local rates should bear any portion of this great expense? Who was the authority who would have to decide whether the examination should take place on board or on shore? Who would be responsible for the immigrants conditionally landed? Who would provide the necessary staff? Who would pay the expenses of the immigrants until they were allowed to pass through? Who was to pay the expenses of immigrants who wished to appeal if they were rejected? The right hon. Gentleman had not a single supporter for his proposal to increase expenditure. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon disagreed with the right hon. Gentleman. An hon. Gentleman opposite said that the expense would fall on the shipowners, and that was a matter which they ought to bear in mind.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said that the Committee should get Answers to the very pertinent Questions put by his right hon. friend. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon that this Amendment was unworthy of a Cabinet Minister. It was another illustration of the absolutely unworkable character of the Bill. He would undertake, if not to drive a coach and six, at least to steer a whole fleet of immigrant ships, all loaded with undesirable immigrants, through this clause. Who was to determine whether an immigrant was to be disembarked or not? When the immigrant was conditionally disembarked who was to provide the necessary accommodation for him? Who was to keep him? Who was to provide the compound? Next, supposing that such an immigrant escaped while the immigration officer was prosecuting his inquiries, was there any legal authority for a constable to arrest him and take him back? Again, supposing that the immigrant conditionally landed was not a fit and proper person to enter this country, whose duty was it to put him back on the ship? What agent of the law or representative of the shipowner would be authorised to use force?

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said that as the conditional landing was for the convenience of the shipowner, who wished to obviate the detention of his ship, it would be for him to say whether he wished his immigrants to be conditionally landed.

Mr. DALZIEL said his point was, would the captain of a ship be allowed to determine the time the immigrants should land without consulting the convenience of the examining authorities.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said that was provided for in the regulations. As it was for the convenience of the shipowner he would have to find the necessary accommodation on shore, or arrange for it with the dock companies, who would certainly provide the facilities for this traffic which the law required. All the difficulties conjured up would disappear. As to the boarding of the immigrants on shore, that must be settled between the immigrants and the shipowners. He quite agreed that such expenses were not to be thrown on the National Exchequer or on the rates. It would be monstrous if the taxpayer were to be mulcted to save the pocket of the shipowner on whom the law had thrown this obligation. As to the escape of an immigrant conditionally disembarked, the second clause provided that the master of the ship should give security in the case of immigrants conditionally landed. He admitted that the clause did not provide for the recapture of the escaped immigrant.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

ALIENS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendment proposed.

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'ship,' to insert the words 'or elsewhere if the immigrants are conditionally disembarked for the purpose.'"—(*Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. FORDE RIDLEY said the Amendment proposed by the right hon. Gentleman raised a question of great importance to the shipping industry. Although they were anxious that no injustice should be done to that great industry this was a matter which should be considered dispassionately or without prejudice, because if this Bill was to become a workable Act it was essential that this difficulty should be disposed of in some way or other. It had already been shown that it might become necessary to provide accommodation at certain ports where aliens might be taken care of for a few hours, or even a few days, pending the inspection. The question was how such accommodation was to be provided with the least hardship to the shipping companies. One of the objections urged against the Amendment was that it would give preferential treatment to certain shipping companies. He maintained that no stronger argument could be urged in favour of the measure, because it was a fact that a large proportion of the immigrants arrived here in German and Danish bottoms. The British ships which carried immigrants to this country were not immigrant ships at all, they were mere cargo vessels travelling to certain ports for the purpose of picking up their cargoes and taking a few passengers. The pictures drawn by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy of a thousand immigrants being landed on the quay, immigrants who were for the most part, or wholly, women and children and all suffering from disease, was an exaggerated picture. He would welcome the application of the American system at our ports, but unfortunately that system could not be enforced owing to the cost of levying a tax on all immigrants arriving in this country, while if it was suggested that we should levy a tax on immigrants arriving in bulk only, hon. Members opposite would immediately say that we levied a tax on the poor, which we did not attempt to levy on those who were in better circumstances.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) rose to a point of order, and asked whether the hon. Member was justified in entering into the question of United States taxation on immigrants mainly for the purpose of wasting time.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Glasgow, St. Rollox): Is it a Parliamentary expression deliberately to accuse any Member of wasting time?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is an expression that I have heard used in the House, thought I deprecate its use very much.

MR. MARKHAM: It is perfectly obvious.

*MR. FORDE RIDLEY warmly protested against the insinuation of the hon. Member that he was deliberately wasting time, and said that at the time he was interrupted by the hon. Member he had actually finished with that point. The question seemed to him to resolve itself into this. Certain accommodation had to be provided by somebody. The question was, what was the accommodation necessary? Was it as extensive as had been stated, and would the cost of providing it be so great that the shipping interest could not bear it? It seemed to him that if anybody would be hit by the expense of landing these immigrants it would be the foreign competitor of the British shipowner and not the British shipowner himself. It was the Danish and German shipowners who brought the bulk of these people to our

Mr. MARKHAM said he had supported the Second Reading of the Bill and wished to see it become law. But the House had reached only the tenth line of the Bill, and if much more rapid progress was not made with it he could only come to the conclusion that the Government were not anxious to see it upon the Statute-book.

The CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member to come to the Amendment.

Mr. MARKHAM said that with regard to the Amendment before the Committee, he thought that where a shipowner took every possible precaution to see that the immigrants he brought to this country were of a desirable character, and it was afterwards found that they were of bad character, the cost ought not to be borne by the shipowner. But unless the Amendment were adopted it would not be to the interest of the shipowners to take precaution against carrying undesirable aliens. He thought it would be a reasonable thing to introduce a clause to give a rebate to the shipowner who could show that he had taken every possible means to find out whether the people he was bringing into the country were respectable. In the United States shipowners made every possible inquiry, knowing that if they brought in undesirables they would have to bear the cost.

In reply to Mr. J. F. Hope (Sheffield, Brightside) who asked a Question the terms of which were inaudible in the Press Gallery,

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said that in addition to the security taken from the master of the vessel there were other provisions in the Bill in reference to the escape of immigrants from detention. From Section 10 (5) and Section 7 (1) it would be seen that an immigrant was liable to be dealt with as a rogue and vagabond if he escaped from the conditional landing. Further, Section 7 (3) provided that—

> "Any immigrant who is conditionally landed . . . shall be liable to be kept in custody in such manner as the Secretary of State directs and whilst in that custody shall be deemed to be in legal custody."

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) hoped the Government would not accede to the request of the hon. Member for the East Toxteth Division. He was the last man who would wish to impose an unjust burden upon any industry, but on the other hand he had no desire to place on the taxpayer a charge that he ought not to bear. Personally he did not think any buildings would have to be erected at all for this purpose.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR: Then why is the provision in the Bill?

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY said the provision was inserted solely for the convenience of the shipowner. The shipowner could easily protect himself, as there was no obligation upon him to receive people who he thought would be rejected as undesirables. The hon. Member had not advanced any sufficient reason for an alteration of the Amendment in the manner suggested.

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade) rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put," but the Chairman withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

Mr. DALZIEL pointed out that the discussion had proceeded for some time before dinner, and that at nine o'clock the Opposition were prepared to allow the Amendment to go through without even putting the Committee to the trouble of a division. He hoped that that would be borne in mind if at any future stage the Opposition were charged with unduly occupying the time of the Committee. The discussion had shown that the Amendment raised larger principles than was at first thought. It was not at all an infrequent occurrence for 1,200 or 1,400 persons to be landed in a single night at Newhaven, and under the machinery of the Bill all these would have to be examined. The expense of their detention and feeding would have to fall upon someone, and he suspected it would be the shipowner. If that were so it would absolutely ruin the British shipping industry as against the foreigner. The right hon. Gentleman had evidently not sufficiently considered the machinery of the Bill or its probable cost. He did not think the proposal would be effective, but at the same time the Amendment was an improvement and he would not oppose it.

Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said that as the real reason for the Bill was that it was against the public interest that there should be unrestricted immigration into this country, it was not fair that a particular class should bear the cost of carrying out its provisions. He thought they had gone quite far enough in the direction of placing hampering conditions upon British shipping. In view of the efforts which were being put forward by Germany and other foreign countries to foster the shipping trade, he thought the House ought to be scrupulously careful to guard against putting any further burdens upon the shipping industry. He maintained that this ought to be made an Imperial charge and should not be placed upon any particular industry.

Mr. MARKHAM said the Home Secretary had not answered the Question he had put to him. The Act introduced last year dealing with this subject, laid down that all the accommodation should be provided by the State. In a case where a shipowner had taken every possible precaution in bringing immigrants into this country, and by some mistake happened to have brought a criminal whom he would have to take back again, he thought it was very unreasonable that the whole of that cost should have to be borne by the shipowner. He trusted, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman would give his careful attention to the point which had been raised.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he could not regard this proposal as being any additional burden upon the shipowner.

Question put, and agreed to.

*Mr. EMMOTT moved an Amendment providing that the inspection should be made "as soon as practicable after the arrival of the ship in port." His object was to guard against the danger which would result to the shipping interest through undue delay in inspection, and to see that the inspecting officer was called to account if unnecessary delay occurred. It was obvious that if the inspection could be taken at any time, and if any undue delay occurred owing it might be to the arbitrary conduct of some jack-in-office, serious damage might be done to the shipping industry. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'inspector,' to insert the words 'such inspection to be made as soon as practicable after the arrival of the ship in port.'"—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS agreed with the view that the inspection should be made as soon as possible, and he was prepared to accept the principle of the Amendment. He suggested, therefore, that the insertion of the words "such inspection to be made as soon as practicable" would meet the wishes of the hon. Member.

*Mr. EMMOTT agreed to this modification of the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR moved to insert the following words: "Leave to land shall not be withheld from any immigrant who, having taken his ticket in and embarked from the United Kingdom direct for some other country, and having been refused admission into that country, returns direct therefrom to a port in the United Kingdom." By this he proposed to meet the difficulty that inevitably would arise of an immigrant who, embarking at a British port and having booked to a foreign port, was refused by the foreign Government. The question would then arise what was to be done with this unfortunate passenger. The shipowner could not be expected to keep him on board ship for the rest of his natural life, but what was the alternative if he could not land at either port? Various suggestions might be made as to what should be done with this unhappy man. He might be got rid of in various ways, and sea captains adopted rough-and-ready methods sometimes. The practical question he had raised, he thought, was very important, and the Amendment he had suggested was strictly limited in its character. Possibly the objection would be raised to his Amendment that the shipowner ought never to have taken this man on board, but that argument surely would not be brought forward by anybody who desired to get rid of aliens. If they had aliens in this country after the Act had passed, it would be either because they were in this country before the Act was passed, they must have got here by leave of the immigration officer, or they must have been smuggled in. Under such circumstances the liability could not rest with the shipowner for the perpetual custody of such aliens. He thought that it was only right that in such a case as he had given a man should be allowed to land.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 14, at end, to insert the words, 'leave to land shall not be withheld from any immigrant who, having taken his ticket in and embarked from the United Kingdom direct for some other country, and having been refused admission into that country, returns direct therefrom to a port in the United Kingdom.'"—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the Amendment would not be pressed. As it stood it would include transmigrants, and he protested against this country being made the dumping-ground for people sent back from the United States; the American Government should return them to the country of origin.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he drew a clear distinction by his Amendment; it was limited to the immigrant who, having taken his ticket in this country, embarked direct for some other country. The foreign Government would not know the country of origin.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said this Amendment would apply to the transmigrant, and he understood that the case which the hon. Member desired to deal with was the man who was sent back from America. He thought that case deserved consideration, but he did not think that this Amendment was the proper way of dealing with it, and this was not the proper place. It would come in better when they reached the clause which dealt with the question of the persons who were not excluded. Here they were dealing with the general machinery. He trusted that his hon. friend would allow his proposal to stand over and bring it up again later on. He thought it would be then possible to introduce words which would meet the case which had been brought forward.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR: I shall be pleased to postpone my Amendment.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said he took it that this Amendment was in order here, or else the Chairman would have ruled it out of order.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: I did not say it was out of order. What I say is that this is not the most convenient place to deal with it.

Mr. RUNCIMAN said he thought they were justified in accepting the ruling of the Chair upon this Amendment. What he desired to impress upon the Government was that this was a real question and it was not a mere matter of drafting. It was a matter of great moment, especially to Liverpool. It applied to those residents in this country who might be discarded in America, and who would return here. In the case of a man who had come from Hamburg and landed in London, and had then gone to Liverpool and booked to America, that man would have been permitted to land in this country by the immigration officer in London, and should, therefore, be readmitted if he was sent back from America. Surely the Attorney-General did not mean that the shipping company should keep that man on board their ship for the remainder of his life. How did the Home Secretary propose to deal with the problem put forward by the hon. Member for East

Toxteth? Would the right hon. Gentleman undertake to propose words equivalent to those contained in the Amendment?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he would undertake to bring up words at a later stage on the clause that would meet the views of both hon. Gentlemen.

MR. J. A. PEASE asked whether the Amendment would be in order at a later stage.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not see any objection to it on the point of order.

***MR. PEEL** (Manchester, S.) said if these people had been once passed by an immigration officer they were likely to pass the immigration officer again. It did not follow because they did not pass the American test that they would not pass the English test. It was hardly worth while to introduce an Amendment to meet that point.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the case they were supposing was that of the transmigrant, as soon as he had satisfied the immigration officer that he was only going through he was free.

***MR PEEL** said there was the case of the transmigrant and also the case of the man who changed his mind, went to America, and was sent back to this country. If only a month before the man had passed the test in this country why should he fail to pass the test here again?

***MR. J. A. PEASE** said 195,000 aliens came last year into the country, 100,000 had through tickets, of the balance based upon the Census Returns of 1891 to 1901 not more than 13,000 settled, the remainder, fully 70,000 to 80,000, booked their passages to other countries, and were all immigrants to which the Amendment might become applicable. Some proceeded to other countries at once, and others after a short residence here. It was quite possible that, although they came into this country free from disease, they left it as undesirables, and would be returned to these shores. It would be a great hardship to compel the shipowners to maintain these men in perpetuity.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR asked leave to withdraw the Amendment, in view of the Home Secretary's statement.

MR. LOUGH said he did not think that course represented the arrangement which had been come to.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said the arrangement was that the Government would put down an Amendment themselves.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL asked what class of aliens rejected in the United States would be permitted to land? Would it be those who had passed through the United Kingdom and stayed a short time, or would it be those who had gone straight through?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: It will be much more convenient to deal with that point when we have put our Amendment down.

MR. LOUGH protested against that course. It had been clearly stated that words of equal value to this Amendment would be accepted only they would be put in at a later stage. What had happened? Two hon. Members opposite had given a threatening notice to the Government and the arrangement come to had now been withdrawn. Why should not this be discussed now? The Amendment had been accepted, except in regard to the precise phraseology.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he pointed out in the first place that it was proposed to bring in the Amendment at the wrong part of the Bill, and in the second place that it was not properly worded. The promise which had been given had amply satisfied the mover of the Amendment, and he hoped it would satisfy hon. Members opposite.

MR. LOUGH said the hon. and learned Gentleman had not given a complete description of what took place. When the hon. Member for Dewsbury brought the question before the Committee the Home Secretary got up and stopped him, and said that, an agreement having been arrived at, the Amendment would be admitted. The only question was as to the phraseology of the Amendment, and where it would be put in. On his side they thought the whole thing was settled, then there came the threat from below the gangway on the other side, and now the Government were being intimidated out of making the concession. That was the reason why the Bill was making no progress. He hoped the Home Secretary, who had proceeded reasonably so far as he had been allowed, would stick to the promise he had made to the hon. Member for Dewsbury.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said it was impossible to make concessions unless they were accepted in the spirit in which they were made. If the offer he had made was not accepted he would withdraw it.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said hon. Members representing the shipping interest had accepted the assurance which had been given by the Home Secretary. He hoped they would now be allowed to proceed.

MR. MARKHAM said they wished to know what the Attorney-General had promised. The Committee did not know where they were.

MR. DALZIEL said he understood that the Government were prepared to accept in principle the Amendment which had been moved by his hon. friend, and that they would move it at a later stage of the Bill. As the matter stood at present it would be quite in order for the Government, without any breach of faith, to bring forward an entirely different Amendment at a later stage. He hoped an assurance would be given that the main principle of the Amendment would be accepted.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY sincerely hoped the Amendment would not be accepted. If it were accepted and became part of the law of the land, it might well happen that aliens whom a United States employer might desire to introduce into that country in contravention of the contract labour laws would be dumped down in this country because they were refused admission into the United States. We should become the dumping-ground of that labour which in other countries was not considered fair labour, and our workpeople at home would be driven from work by the blacklegs refused admission to America.

MR. RUNCIMAN said he did not know whether that was a sample of the kind of speech they might reasonably expect from the supporters of the Bill. He had asked the Home Secretary whether he would provide in the Bill for dealing with a class of aliens who in certain circumstances might become a burden on shipowners for the rest of their lives, and the right hon. Gentleman had said he would do so later on. He was quite sure the right hon. Gentleman would not depart from that promise.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said the undertaking of the Home Secretary to provide for the cases contemplated by the Amendment had landed the Government in this curious dilemma. One of the strongest arguments urged in favour of the Bill was that we ought not to be the dumping-ground of persons rejected by the United States. Now, the right hon Gentleman was apparently abandoning the whole of that argument, and by his acceptance of the principle of the Amendment was opening the door to that very dumping against which the supporters of the Bill had always so strongly protested. He could understand the hon. Member for Hoxton rising in revolt, no doubt he would carry the revolt to the division lobby.

*MR. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) said that the view expressed by his hon. friend the Member for Hoxton was no mere delusion as to what might happen under the Amendment. As a matter of fact in 1904 the number of immigrants rejected at United States ports was no less than 8,000, and of that number 1,600 were rejected because they were coming into the country as contract labourers. That was one class who under the Amendment would be sent back to British ports.

MR. HARWOOD said the supporters of the Bill ought certainly to resist this Amendment. The House seemed to forget that transmigrants would undergo no examination, and the consequence was that this was only a concession to shipowners so as to allow immigrants to come who had not been examined at all. When they were refused in America they would come back here. This was most absurd.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said this was really a very important and substantial question. The Amendment, it would be observed, could only apply to an alien. If a British subject went to the United States and was rejected, he would be sent back here and, of course, we were bound to receive him. Therefore the exact effect of the Amendment would be that if aliens came to this country and rebooked to the United States or Canada, and were rejected, they would be sent back to this country. He had made careful inquiry into this matter, and found that between 20,000 and 30,000 of those who passed through Liverpool were booked in this very way. They came from the Continent and were on the way either to the United States or Canada. They had been induced to come through communications from friends in the United States or Canada, and tickets were taken out for them at Liverpool so that they might continue their journey. This was a most important matter for Liverpool. In 1904 no less than 2,700 men who had been booked from this country to the United States and Canada were rejected, and the people of Liverpool had back on their hands several hundreds of these men. Ten or twelve years ago an arrangement was made for a joint asylums board for the county, but owing to the overwhelming number of lunatics which Liverpool sent to the county asylum a rearrangement had to be made, and Liverpool was mulcted in an extra £6,000 a year. This extra number of lunatics was due to this very class of persons, who, setting out from the East of Europe, were booked at Liverpool, rejected in the United States, and dumped down again in Liverpool.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) said he understood that an alien in order to come under the definition of the class of transmigrants would only have to show that he had a through ticket in his possession, and that when he came into this country he had the intention of passing on. That was all a transmigrant had to show under Clause 8 of the Bill. If the Amendment were accepted he took it that immigrants rejected by the United States would be able to return here. That would defeat the whole object of the Bill. He asked the Home Secretary whether that was a true definition of what would happen. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make the matter clear.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said the Government did not accept the Amendment, because it was too wide. They agreed, however, that hardship might exist, and were prepared to put in words at the proper place which would in spirit meet the Amendment of his hon. friend.

*MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) did not know precisely what the Home Secretary meant by meeting the Amendment in spirit. The Amendment suggested that we should accept the very worst class of alien immigrants, namely those whom America refused. That was what it amounted to. He thought that was wrong, unjust, and contrary to the spirit of the Bill. America had ten thousand times the absorbing power that we had, and if she could not take these undesirable aliens he was very sure we could not.

Question put, and negatived.

The next Amendment on the Paper stood in the name of Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax), and was in the following terms—

> "In page 1, line 14, at end, to insert the words 'Provided that the prohibition contained in this section shall not apply to any person, who, although a naturalised subject of another country, was born in the United Kingdom.'"

THE CHAIRMAN said this ought to come as an Amendment on Clause 8.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said that under Sub-section 2, where leave to land was withheld in the case of any immigrant the master of the ship or the immigrant might appeal to the emigration Board of the port. He contended that the master was not the proper person—it did not come within his sphere—to be held responsible for the immigrants. His business was to attend to the navigation of his ship, and he had not the necessary knowledge to qualify him to say when appeals should be made. The master could know nothing of those immigrants when they came on board ship in such large numbers. Further, the master could have no opportunity of examining them while attending to the proper navigation of his ship. Moreover, he could not supervise the immigrants when they went on shore, because his duties kept him on board ship. As the Bill stood, a number of obligations and penalties would be thrown upon the master for matters for which he could not really be held responsible. The Association of Shipmasters had pointed out that under this Bill a great deal too much was cast upon the masters which they could not perform at all. According to the Shipping Act of 1894, in matters of this kind the owners or agents were held responsible. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, after the word 'master,' to insert the words 'owner or agent.'"—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he had no objection to the Amendment.

Question, put, and agreed to.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said the Amendment he had to propose was preliminary to a subsequent one in a later clause. It was to secure that instead of a board there should be a tribunal or judicial authority. This matter had been discussed by the Standing Committee on Law, and he understood that the Government had accepted the principle that there should be some legal representative on the board. He knew of no precedent for a board of this character being called upon to exercise judicial functions; and he thought that the Committee would recognise that as this body would have to deal with delicate questions relating to political crimes it should be a judicial body. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the first word 'board,' and insert the word 'authority.'"—(*Mr. Atherley-Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'board' stand part of the clause."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the Government quite recognised that on a board of this kind there ought to be a person of legal experience, but it was not desirable that the board should be wholly legal.

MR. LOUGH thought that the Attorney-General should follow the American precedent, which gave a right of appeal to Washington. It was, he insisted, incumbent on the Government to think of the exceptional cases in which an appeal should be provided.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the questions to be decided would be almost invariably decided on matters of fact, and he did not think it at all desirable that there should be an appeal.

MR. LOUGH said that, admitting that it would be only in exceptional cases that questions of any great magnitude would arise, yet there might come for refuge to our shores some very eminent alien, like Mazzini, who might be condemned by this board; and he thought there should be a right of appeal.

*MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough) said he could quite imagine hon. Members who represented the East End of London, putting considerable pressure on the Home Secretary to refuse as many immigrants as possible, although these might be an economic asset to the country. He objected to the creation of an arbitrary authority against whose decision there was no appeal to a judicial body. Could not the ordinary judicial authorities and magistrates of the country be trusted to deal with this work and decide on all the questions which might arise? It was undesirable that immigrants should be rejected at the dictates of a few hon. Members who desired to save their seats at the next election. He thought it was a public scandal and discredit to the House of Commons to say that there was no judicial tribunal in this country fitted to decide these questions. They might have a board who would reject Gorky, if he succeeded in reaching this country, and there would be no appeal. He implored hon. Members to stand up for the rights and liberties of the people, for the principle of asylum, and demand that immigrants should not be rejected without having an opportunity to appeal to a judicial tribunal.

MAJOR SEELY said that it would be in the recollection of hon. Gentlemen opposite that this was a point on which there was great division of opinion last year, but a general agreement had been reached by them, showing that a judicial authority would be better than the new board proposed to be set up. We in this country had never yet been governed by a bureaucratic authority, but under the provisions of this Bill we would be governed by a bureaucracy. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he had made a concession, but that was only to alter the form of the bureaucratic government, and was no concession at all. Recollecting what had occurred last year, he would appeal to the Home Secretary to give some assurance that a judicial authority would deal with these cases.

MR. DALZIEL said that before the division was taken the Committee should have more light as to how this board was going to operate. He understood that names were going to be submitted to the Home Secretary from which he would select three men who were to constitute the board. Who was going to submit the list from which these men were to be selected by the Government? What character of persons was it contemplated to put on the board? Was this to be a political board? There was a strong feeling in regard to alien immigration in some quarters, and he could conceive hon. Members for the East End of London insisting that the board should be constituted of gentlemen who strongly objected to any alien being admitted into this country at all. Why were the local judicial authorities not good enough for this purpose? He also asked if it were contemplated that the members of the board were going to be paid for their services. He asked his hon. friend the Member for Durham if he was willing that the Court of summary jurisdiction which he proposed should be unpaid?

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that the Court of summary jurisdiction which he proposed would not involve much expense to the State.

MR. DALZIEL said that unfortunately the Government were in no way inclined to accept the views of his hon. friend. Of course the members of this board would have to be paid. They could not expect gentlemen of great business experience, or who belonged to the legal profession, to devote every day to the consideration of appeals in regard to these immigrants. If they were to be paid, what were their salaries to be? This was the time when the Committee ought to have some assurance from the Government as to what their intentions were in regard to all these matters.

MR. RUNCIMAN asked whether the Attorney-General really thought that the proposed board would be competent to deal with extradition cases and cases of lunacy among the immigrants. Was it possible that a scratch board of this character could be properly equipped for dealing with such cases? To imagine that three administrative or business gentlemen would be a fit and proper body to deal with these questions was absurd. They ought to be most careful as to the class of men who were going to be allowed to exercise these powers. He appealed to the Home Secretary to adopt the more reasonable frame of mind which he showed last year in Grand Committee. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to give them a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to which all these appeals might go.

*Mr. BRIGHT said that this Bill was an entirely new departure. Not only would this measure seriously damage their immigrant trade, but it was also a direct attack upon human liberty, for they were now departing from the old idea of human freedom in this country which had done so much for the British Empire. He agreed that every possible safeguard should be adopted, but at the same time no injustice should be done. Professor Dicey in one of his recent books had stated that the Bill of 1904 betrayed a marked reaction against the immigration of foreigners, and showed an indifference to personal freedom, and this Bill was much the same. He appealed to the Government to provide a proper judicial authority for this purpose.

Mr. BRYCE said that as the point would have to be discussed again when Clause 2, which determined the constitution of the board, was reached, time would be saved if the Government were to accept the Amendment, which did not at all prejudice the question. It would be far more easy for the Committee to deal with this question upon its merits on Clause 2.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he could not accede to that suggestion. However suitable hon. Members might think a judicial authority would be, the Government considered that such an authority was not suitable for dealing with such questions as to whether an alien was an undesirable or not. The Government considered that a board was a good deal better to deal with these questions, and, moreover, the existing judicial authorities were very hard worked at present. The Government had made up its mind on the subject. Despatch was essential; the matter must be dealt with promptly, and that could only be done by setting up a special tribunal for the purpose.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Does the learned Attorney-General think that this is a proper body for dealing with extraditable offences?

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: The only question for them to consider is whether a man has been convicted of these offences, and they are the only questions which will arise. With regard to the question of lunacy, I think the hon. Member will recognise that every day such cases are dealt with by similar bodies to those which are now proposed. All the board would have to decide was whether an immigrant had been convicted for an offence liable to extradition.

Mr. LOUGH asked whether, if this board refused to allow a man like Mazzini to land, there would be no appeal. If so there was no precedent for it. These three gentlemen might make a flagrant mistake, yet their decision was to be more absolute than that of a Judge of the High Court. In America an immigrant had only to find a small sum, about £1, and he could have his case taken to Washington and decided by the highest authorities in the country, no matter what his case was. Were we who had set an example where human freedom was concerned to refuse an appeal?

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said that by Sub-section 4 of Clause 8 it was provided that if any question arose as to whether any offence was an offence of a political character, it should be referred to the Home Secretary, whose decision was to be final.

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES said this board would have the function of deciding whether or not an offence was practical, a board upon which might be the chief constable of the county, or an officer of Customs. If the hon. and learned Gentleman said it would be referred to the Home Secretary he made the matter worse, for this would be the first time in the history of the country that it had been proposed that judicial functions should be given to an executive officer. This raised a large constitutional question. It was really a kind of small Star Chamber which it was proposed to set up which would act absolutely independently, and there would be no appeal from its decisions, however monstrous they might be. The Attorney-General told them that they might appeal to the Home Office, but they all knew what that meant. From a recent case they knew that it was the head clerk at the Home Office who disposed of such matters. He thought he was entitled to some support from his Front Bench on a matter of this sort. [" Hear, hear ! "] He did not speak in any terms of complaint, because he recognised that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen had made a suggestion which, he thought, might have been acceptable to the Home Secretary.

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE said his hon. and learned friend's appeal was perfectly justified. He hoped he would accept from him the assurance that they could not have anticipated that a discussion on the fourth section of Clause 8 would arise at that stage. His hon. and learned friend had expressed the views of those who sat on the Front Bench in regard to this matter, and, when the clause relating to this judicial body was reached, it was probable that it would meet with the strongest opposition on that side of the House. They fully recognised that this was one of the most crucial questions in the Bill.

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) rose to continue the debate, when Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 187 ; Noes, 147. (Division List No. 219.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J.(Manch'r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHn Gerald W.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirMichael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt.Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B.(Hants, W.)
Fellowes,RtHn.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster Philip S.(Warwick,S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir EW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F (Sheffield,Brightside
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Hozier, Hn.James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon Heneage
Leveson-Gower Frederick N. S.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham

Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol,S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, RtHnSirH.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir FrederickG.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Peel, Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Lt-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lieut.-Col.Thos.Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,H.C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirC.E H(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Whiteley,H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton,N.E.(York,NR,Whitby
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt EC(S.Andrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood George
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy,Vincent P.(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willan
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Dengibhs.)
Roche, John (Galway, East

Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George(York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, ArthurWalters(N.Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Woodhouse SirJT.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'board' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 189; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 220.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus HenryEden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt Hn Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn. A.J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,Rt Hn GeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S, Harmood-
Beach,Rt.Hn.Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Fellowes, RtHn AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Man'cr.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Philip S(Warwick,S.W..
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,Maj.Evans(T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, SirEW(B'ryS.Edm'nds
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare,Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, John(KentFaversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,HnHLW (Mile End)
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants, Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliot (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick, N.S
Long, Col. CharlesW.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHn.SirH.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Milner, Rt.Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants).
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Peel, Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.

Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox Thomas
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith,H.C (North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, RtHn J.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Hon.Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt.Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirCE.H.(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Whiteley, H,(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham,-Quin Col. W. H.
Younger, William

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, NE.(York,NR,Whitby
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randall
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw'sB'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts).
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark,N
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife West)
Hutchinson, Dr.Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J.Lloyd (Carmarthen
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely,Maj.J.E B.(Isle of Wight)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor,Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney
White, George (Norfolk
White, Luke (York, E. R.)

White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said that a large number of Orders of the Day were put down every day, which it was certain would not be reached this session, and he wished to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury whether an announcement could not be made as to which of them could be dropped.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could give them some assurance that he would be able to secure the attendance of a majority of the supporters of the Government on future occasions, and thus make it possible for them to save the time of the House. They were ready on the Opposition side of the House to allow an Amendment to go through at nine o'clock, and owing to circumstances which the right hon. Gentleman was aware of, a full hour was lost owing to the fact that the Government had not got a majority of their supporters present in the House. He wished to know if the right hon. Gentleman would take some further steps to secure the attendance of the supporters of the Government, and thus afford them more time to discuss this important Bill. If they lost one hour every night whilst the Aliens Bill was before the Committee, it would amount to a very large loss of time in the end, and they would be considering business when they ought to be thinking about going away for their holidays. Could the right hon. Gentleman not bring some pressure to bear upon his supporters, or hold out some hope that their services would be rewarded, so as to get his followers to attend in their places? There were many important Bills to consider and if they went on in this way there would be no hope for the Unemployed Bill.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he thought his hon. friend was quite justified in making some protest against the way the House had been treated. An Amendment had been under discussion which was not opposed by the Government, and there was no disposition to oppose it on either side of the House, and yet the matter was debated for a long time, mostly by hon. Members opposite. That was not the only case which had occurred of time being wasted that day during the Committee stage of the Aliens Bill. He thought the Home Secretary might endeavour to attend more regularly during the Committee stage of the Aliens Bill than he had done during the last sitting of the House. It was entirely owing to the Home Secretary's absence and want of touch with what had actually taken place that an incident had arisen which had given rise to a good deal of irritation. He hoped the Government would do everything in their power to carry on the business of the House of Commons creditably and avoid any further cause for complaint in this respect.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked whether the Unemployed Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Bill were going to be altogether shelved until the Aliens Bill was disposed of. He thought they had a right to insist upon some understanding upon this question, because if that was the case it was very evident that the chances of these other Bills were very slight indeed He wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he had not found upon his own side of the House, as well as in the country generally, that the feeling was much more pronounced in favour of the Unemployed Bill becoming law than it was in respect to the measure which the House had been discussing that day. He could say, with some assurance, that the information which he had got in his possession fully justified his contention that this was the case. The working classes of the country had expressed no opinion in favour of the Aliens Bill, but they had made many demands to have the Unemployed Bill pushed through without any further delay. Only that day the Prime Minister had stated that he was unable to fix a day for the Second Reading of the Unemployed Bill. Would the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury give them some indication as to whether the Unemployed Bill would at least be allowed to run side by side with the Aliens Bill so as to obviate the danger which existed of two Bills which, in his opinion, were of infinitely more importance than the Aliens Bill not being passed into law this session. He trusted that they would have some assurance upon this point in order that they might make their arrangements for being present when the Unemployed Bill came on. He hoped the whole time of the session would not be wasted upon a worthless measure like the Aliens Bill.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington) said he was very glad to find that the legislation introduced by the Government in favour of the working classes was so popular on the Opposition side of the House, and he trusted that they would endeavour to assist the Government to pass those measures into law. The three important measures were the Workmen's Compensation Bill, the Unemployed Bill, and the Aliens Bill. He could not say at the present moment which would start at the shortest price. He would certainly convey to the Prime Minister the view which had been expressed upon these matters. With regard to what had been said by the hon. Member for Rushcliffe in regard to the Orders of the Day, he agreed that it was inconvenient and he would see what could be done in the matter.

Question put, and agreed to.

Ajourned at twenty-nine minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 29th June, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.] (Aberavon Tramways Order). A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway Bill; Bootle Corporation Bill. Committee to meet on Tuesday next.

Great Western Railway (New Railways) Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Rathmines and Rathgar Extension and Improvement Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners.

Dover Harbour. Moved, That the order made on the 16th March last, "That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later than Thursday the 11th day of May next," be dispensed with, and that leave be given to the Dover Harbour Board to present a petition praying for leave to introduce a Bill "to alter the constitution of the Dover Harbour Board, and for other purposes;" agreed to; petition, together with a copy of the proposed Bill annexed thereto, read, and referred to the Examiners.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^{a} to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill. Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed.

PETITIONS.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.].

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I beg to present a petition against the Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill from a meeting of Christian Sabbath keepers held at Exeter Hall, Strand, on May 25th.

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, I also have petitions to present, but they are all in favour of the Bill. The first petition is from the Corporation of Glasgow, the second from the Presbytery of Glasgow, the third from the Free Church in Glasgow, and the fourth is a large petition from the traders in Glasgow.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.].

Petition against; of Christian Sabbath keepers; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Petitions in favour of; of City of Glasgow; Presbytery of Glasgow (2); Wood Green Presbyterian Christian Endeavour Society; Glasgow Traders. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3422. Portugal (Biera);

No. 3423. Colombia (Barranquilla);

No. 3424. Russia (St. Petersburg);

No. 3425. Norway;

No. 3426. Morocco (Tangier);

No. 3427. Italy (Brindisi and Province of Lecce).

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Report of the principal chemist upon the work of the Government laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1905; with appendices.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Fifty-ninth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy.

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.

Account showing the receipt and expenditure of naval prize, bounty, salvage, and other moneys between 1st April, 1904, and 31st March, 1905.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Treasury Minute, dated 23rd June, 1905, declaring that Alfred William Cousins, Royal Laboratory, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

RAILWAYS CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES ACT, 1864.

Report by the Board of Trade on an application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' POWERS ACT, 1864.

Report by the Board of Trade on an application made during the year 1904 under the Act, and of the proceedings of the Board of Trade with respect thereto.

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

(Post Office Savings Banks Fund).—Account for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

(Savings Banks Fund) (Friendly Societies Fund).—Accounts for the year ended 20th November, 1904.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Accounts of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December, 1904; together with a statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on 31st December, 1904, and the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those liabilities at that date.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Account of the receipt and expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-Up Act, from 1st January to 31st December, 1904.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

University Court Ordinance No. XI. (Edinburgh, No. 4).—Institution of degrees in veterinary medicine and surgery, and relative regulations.

University Court Ordinance No. XII. (Edinburgh, No. 5).—Inclusion of geography among the subjects qualifying for graduation in arts.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 111.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Order for the consideration of Standing Order No. XXXIX. in order to its being suspended for this day's sitting, read, and discharged.

PUBLIC MEETINGS (FACILITIES) BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee, read.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."

LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords, before we go into Committee on this Bill, I hope I shall be in order if I venture to put a Question to the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education. As your Lordships will remember, on the Second Reading I was fortunate enough to receive the assent of His Majesty's Government to the principle of this Bill, but the noble Marquess then intimated that there were some details of the Bill, and possibly some matters of drafting, with which he could not wholly agree. I then stated that I should welcome any Amendments that might be brought forward by His Majesty's Government or the Board of Education which did not affect the principle of the Bill and which were reasonable and just with regard to the details. Your Lordships will observe that there are no Amendments on the Order Paper to-day in the name of the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education. I therefore venture to ask the noble Marquess to state the position of His Majesty's Government with regard to this Bill. It may be that the noble Marquess, after reconsideration, has been impressed with the perfection of the Bill and its clauses, and does not wish in any way to amend it. I would also like to ask the noble Marquess, as there are no Amendments on the Paper in his name, whether the Amendments standing in the name of the most rev. Primate have been put down with the assistance of the Board of Education and the assent of His Majesty's Government; and whether we may consider those Amendments official. The noble Marquess at the former stage gave his assent to the principle of the Bill, and I sincerely hope that the absence of any Amendments in his name may mean that on the whole he is content with the Bill as it stands.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY): My Lords, I was on the point of rising to say a few words as to the position of His Majesty's Government towards this Bill when the noble Lord rose. I do not at all regret the fact that he forestalled me and put to me certain Questions, for that naturally makes my task easier than it otherwise would have been. I intended rising to explain the position of His Majesty's Government or two grounds. In the first place, I considered it would be convenient that the House should be informed, before your Lordships went into Committee and discussed the Amendments that are to be submitted, as to the line His Majesty's Government propose to take on this question; and, in the second place, I thought it would be only courteous on my part to the noble Lord opposite, and other noble Lords who have put Amendments on the Paper, to explain the course I proposed to pursue when those Amendments were discussed. The noble Lord has truly said that on the ocassion of the Second Reading His Majesty's Government did not object to the principle of the measure. On the contrary, I myself expressed sympathy with certain of the details of the Bill and with its principle; but I think if the noble Lord will carry his memory back he will remember that I said at the same time that there were certain details embodied in the Bill which would not only require most careful consideration, but which I thought might be considered of a somewhat controversial character, and as such could not expect to receive the support of His Majesty's Government.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I did not understand that the Amendments the noble Marquess was going to put down were to be of a controversial character, but rather Amendments dealing with points of detail, which I was perfectly willing to accept.

*The MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I do not think I stated that I would put down any Amendments at all; and, in reply to the Question put to me by the noble Lord, I may say that His Majesty's Government have not put down Amendments because it has been decided, after carefully considering the Bill and the debate that took place upon the Second Reading, to retain for His Majesty's Government an absolutely independent position. His Majesty's Government will take no part whatever in the Committee stage of this Bill. Perhaps I did not explain myself clearly, but I thought I was careful in stating that while His Majesty's Government concurred in the principle of the Bill, they at the same time reserved to themselves the right of carefully considering all its details as well as the Amendments that would be put forward in the Committee stage. We have to consider how far the application of the main principle of the Bill is surrounded by proper safeguards, so as to secure the rights of those who are entitled to use the buildings, whether under trusts or otherwise, at times when they are not in use as public elementary schools; and it is important to ascertain how far the measure is workable from practicable and legal points of view, and how far it is accurate in its structure.

At this point I do not propose to refer to any of the safeguards or to the machinery for the carrying out of this Bill, but I would ask your Lordships carefully to consider the drafting of the measure as it stands, its legal accuracy, and also its intelligibility. The principle itself, which the noble Lord wishes now to make generally applicable, is operative at the present time in a partial degree, and there are precedents as to many of the details which might have been followed by the noble Lord; but, without wishing to say anything in the least offensive with regard to the noble Lord's draftsmanship, I think I shall be able to prove that Clause 1, on which the principle of the Bill hangs, is full of difficulties and ambiguities, and in more than one place is meaningless. At least we at the Board of Education are unable to understand the noble Lord's meaning; but as we proceed he will, perhaps, more clearly define it. For example, it is proposed to restrict the right to use the building in pursuance of this Act to the electors and inhabitants of any district served by the public elementary school in question. I do not offer any opinion as to whether this restriction is reasonable, but if a restriction is necessary these words do not serve; nor does the noble Lord's Amendment improve the case. In the first place I would ask, Who is to determine what is the area served by the particular public elementary school; and, when this is done, who is to see that persons who are not electors or residents in that area are exchuded from the meeting? It seems to me it might be an open question whether the political candidate himself, in the event of his being what is called a "carpet bagger," would be permitted to enter the building at all, still less to address it.

In lines 13 and 14, on page 1, a reference is made to—

> "A member of any public body elected by the ratepayers of the area in which such district is situated."

The members of public bodies are elected by electors; no public body is elected by the ratepayers of the area as such. Therefore the language in the clause is inaccurate and would be very difficult to construe.

Another important point arises in Clause 2 in regard to the question of the regulations for the working of this Bill. The object of having these regulations is, no doubt, to regulate the power which this Bill proposes to create and to safeguard the rights of those who are at present entitled to use the building outside school hours, but the safeguards which should surround the application of the Bill ought, to my mind, to be dealt with in the Bill itself. This is the only way in which, in my opinion, it would be possible to provide adequate safeguards and to apply them uniformly. There is another important provision in the Bill as to the use of buildings during election times, and here again the definition is incomplete.

I have endeavoured to point out to the noble Lord who is responsible for this measure some of the difficulties that have arisen through the inaccurate drafting of the various clauses. The noble Lord indicated during the Second Reading, and he has repeated the statement to-day, that he would be glad if the Government could see their way to introduce Amendments remedying the defects I have pointed out; but I have to say, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, that we could not for a moment consider even the desirability of entering on this course. Undoubtedly alterations in the Bill are required, not only as to substance but also from the point of view of phraseology and drafting, and this being a measure introduced by a private Member I cannot recognise that it is the duty of the Government to amend or rectify any shortcomings or mistakes in it.

We have not put down any Amendments because we did not consider it was our duty to amend a Bill which we could not regard as possible of being made perfect; for had we done so, and had it gone down to the other House with Amendments in it which had been introduced by His Majesty's Government, we would have been considered more or less responsible for the Bill. If the Government had chosen, so to speak, to "cut about" the Bill to a great extent, and if the noble Lord in charge of it had been courteous enough to accept those Amendments, even then, as this Bill is at present drawn, it would be impossible for it to be regarded as absolutely satisfactory. To my mind there are two courses open to the noble Lord. He has it in his power to withdraw the present Bill and submit to your Lordships a Bill *de novo*, correcting the shortcomings in the present Bill and making it of a character more satisfactory to the Government. That is, of course, for him to decide. On the other hand, he has the right of going on with this measure in its present condition; but he must recognise that if he proceeds with it, and it goes down to another place unsupported by His Majesty's Government, it has very little. if any, chance of becoming law at this comparatively late period of the session. Consequently the discussions which take place on the Amendments to-day must be of more or less academic character. I do not say I should regret such a discussion. I have no doubt it would enlighten us as to the way in which a measure of this kind might be improved. We, the members of His Majesty's Government, can, however, take no part in any discussion that may ensue, nor shall I, individually, vote in any divisions upon it. I hope I shall not be considered wanting in courtesy in taking no further part in the discussion of this Bill, and I am glad your Lordships have allowed me an opportunity of stating, I hope clearly, the line His Majesty's Government propose to take — that while concurring in the principle of the Bill they cannot, in its present condition, give it their support.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, the noble Marquess has made one of the most extraordinary statements I have even heard from a member of His Majesty's Government. He has declared that he is in favour of the principle of the Bill, but that there are some difficulties with regard to details. We naturally expected that, if the Government were in favour of the principle of the Bill, they would have put down Amendments in regard to its details. The noble Marquess says that because this is a Bill introduced by a private Member it is not necessary for the Government to deal with it. I cannot for a moment accept that. Private Members have not infrequently introduced Bills affecting great Departments of the State, and the members of the Government representing those Departments have always given their opinions upon those measures and dealt with them in the fullest possible way. I venture to say that the noble Marquess, after what he has said, ought either to have refused to accept the principle of the Bill on the Second Reading or he ought to have put down Amendments with regard to the matters of detail to which he has called attention.

Now, what is the position? The noble Marquess suggests that my noble friend should withdraw his Bill. Why is it that my noble friend is pressed to drop the Bill? The Government themselves, though loth to appeal to the country, admit that before very long there will be a dissolution. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that this extremely useful and necessary Bill should be passed promptly, and before an appeal to the country takes place. My noble friend is not prepared to withdraw his Bill. I should like to ask what will happen if the Amendments standing in the name of the most rev. Primate are accepted. Will that satisfy His Majesty's Government? It is extremely difficult to follow exactly the position in which the noble Marquess wishes to place the Government. Even if those Amendments are adopted by the House the Bill will not, I understand, satisfy the noble Marquess, and he will take no further part in the proceedings. I cannot understand the position which the noble Marquess has taken up. He either ought to have opposed the Bill on Second Reading or dealt with it by putting down Amendments, if other Peers have not Amendments already on the Paper which meet his view, or he might have given notice to oppose the Third Reading of the Bill. It would have been far more straightforward and regular to have opposed the Bill than to decide to take no further part in the discussion of the measure.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I am sorry that the noble Earl, the Leader of the Opposition, should have accused me of not acting in a straightforward manner. I stated——

*EARL SPENCER: Order, order! We are not in Committee.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I am fully aware that I am not entitled to speak again, but the noble Earl having attacked me, I thought I should have been allowed to reply. I consider that I have acted in a perfectly straightforward manner. I stated in the debate on the Second Reading that we did not object to the principle of the Bill, and that I myself sympathised with the noble Lord, but I have yet to learn that it has been the custom for a private Member introducing a measure to have it amended by the Government and sent down to another place. I have been privileged, in Opposition, to introduce measures, but I have never had them corrected by the Government and sent down to another place.

*EARL SPENCER: I again submit that the noble Marquess is out of order in speaking a second time. We are not in Committee.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: As I am not in order and am refused an opportunity of defending myself against the charge of not acting in a straightforward manner, I resume my seat.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, when this Bill came up for Second Reading His Majesty's Government approved of its principle, and the only objection which they made—if it could be called an objection at all—was that it was of such a complicated nature that the House could not adequately grapple with it in Committee. Now the noble Marquess says the Bill is so much nonsense. The question I should like to ask is, if the Bill is nonsense, why was that not stated at the former stage?

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I must say this is rather a remarkable proceeding. I do not think the course which the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education has taken is respectful to this House. The noble Marquess on the Second Reading gave us no reason to suppose that he was going to take a course at this stage which would be fatal to the principle of the Bill. He had not that courage. He told us, on the contrary, that he was in favour of the principle of the Bill. So far as I know, the noble Marquess has not given to this House until the present moment the slightest intimation of the line which he was going to take.

You may look at the benches of this House and see that this is a subject in which the House takes a great deal of interest. The House is rather full. Noble Lords have come down to be told by His Majesty's Government that whereas on the Second Reading they were in favour of the principle of the Bill, it is now their intention to adopt a totally novel proceeding and decline to take any part whatever in the discussion of the details of the measure. I can suppose it possible that it may be beyond the powers of the Board of Education to propose any Amendments to the first clause of the Bill which the noble Marquess criticised just now, and which I respectfully venture to say I do not think he himself understood. But I do think we have a right to complain that we should have been brought down to the House to-day with the belief and in the expectation that this important measure would be considered, and that we should be met by a statement that His Majesty's Government will have nothing whatever to do with the discussion.

LORD KENYON: My Lords, on behalf of the Local Government Board I regret to say I cannot afford the noble Marquess any better satisfaction than he has received at the hands of the Board of Education. There is no reason, so far as I know, why the Bill cannot be discussed now, as we have no Government whip against it. Although it might not get the same chance of passing the other House as it would if it were endorsed by His Majesty's Government, still there is no reason why the Bill should not go to the other House with the endorsement of this House. You have heard the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education state that he approves of the principle of the Bill. As to the drafting of it, I presume the House will pass some Amendments; but, on behalf of the Local Government Board, I have to say that they cannot suggest the Amendments which, no doubt, noble Lords sitting opposite would wish them to do.

The Earl of ROSEBERY: My Lords, we are placed in a very grotesque position by the action of His Majesty's Government. I was not present on the former occasion, but I understand from the universal acknowledgement of every nobleman who has spoken that the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education expressed himself in favour of the principle of this Bill. The Local Government Board, I am glad to hear, is also in favour of the principle of the Bill. But the noble Marquess, being in favour of the principle, suddenly comes forward and makes a long speech in which he announces that there are difficulties of detail in the Bill with which he and the Government are wholly unable to grapple. I endeavoured to find out what those difficulties were. The noble Marquess asked, Who is to decide what is the district that a school is intended to serve? I think the intelligence of this House might grapple with that difficulty. Then he said that ratepayers are mentioned where no elections are conducted by ratepayers; they are conducted by electors. That, again, seems to me to be a rock on which this House ought not to split altogether. But, as the result of these two petty, minute, I might use the word peddling, difficulties which the noble Marquess has found in the Bill, he suddenly envelopes himself in his own virtue, wraps himself in his own dignity, resumes his seat, and says he can take no further part in the discussion. Is this treating your Lordships' House with that respect to which it is entitled? Or is it not rather treating it as an assembly below the average of intellect as compared with the rest of mankind. It is true that the noble Lord who represents the Local Government Board has risen to apply a soothing plaster to our souls. He also admits the total incapacity of the Local Government Board to deal with the complicated details of this Bill, but reasserts the passionate attachment of the Government to the Bill. I hope we shall have further comfort from the noble Marquess the Leader of the House.

***The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (The Marquess of Lansdowne): My Lords, I think my noble friend, Lord Londonderry, was amply justified in protesting against a charge made on the other side of want of straightforwardness in his conduct. If his conduct is open to any criticism I should have said that its extreme straightforwardness and candour exposed a somewhat needlessly large target to the criticisms of the other side. Nor was my noble friend guilty of disrespect to your Lordships' House. Our position remains exactly where it was when this Bill was before your Lordships on a previous occasion. We are in favour of the principle of the Bill as we were then, but the Bill having been examined, the Departments most interested have come to the conclusion that it would require so much recasting and so many alterations that, considering the stage of the session at which we have arrived, they do not think it desirable that they should be called upon to undertake the task of remodelling the measure. The action of my noble friend beside me will not, after all, make the slightest difference to the fate of the Bill. We must all be aware that, supposing we were to pass this Bill now, it stands no chance of becoming law this session. Is it not, therefore, perfectly legitimate that we should invite your Lordships to debate it, that we should learn what we can from the debate, but that we should not undertake the responsibility of making what we conceive to be a badly-drawn measure into one fit to take its place on the Statute-book?

Lord BURGHCLERE: As I have already spoken I will, so as to put myself in order, move the adjournment of the debate. I wish to reiterate what has been said on this side as to the House being placed in a most extraordinary position by the action of noble Lords opposite. With regard to what has been said in this debate about Bills introduced by private Members, I may say that since I have had the honour of being a Member of your Lordships House I have myself brought in a Bill on the important subject of open spaces which was referred to the Department interested, and that Department gave me its advice on the subject and the Bill was passed.

The Marquess of LONDONDERRY: I should like to ask whether the noble Lord is in order.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I am moving the adjournment of the debate.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Is that in order?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): It is not.

EARL CARRINGTON: To put my noble friend in order, I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Moved, "That the debate be adjourned."—(*Earl Carrington.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE: I merely wished to point out, with regard to Bills brought in by private Members being referred to the Departments interested and subsequently becoming the law of the land, that when I myself had the honour of introducing into this House a Bill on the important question of open spaces the Bill was referred to the Board of Agriculture; I received the Amendments of that Department and the Bill obtained the sanction of the Government, was referred to the House of Commons and is now on the Statute-book. Therefore, I think I have given the noble Marquess opposite a concrete precedent which might have been followed in a Bill of this description. The noble Marquess speaks of this Bill as if it was a complicated measure like the Local Government Bill of 1894. Why, it is a Bill of only three clauses to meet a matter of extreme simplicity, and I submit——

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: May I remind the noble Lord that the Motion is the adjournment of the debate.

LORD BURGHCLERE: If, in addition to wishing me to withdraw the Bill, the Government wish to silence me, I can do nothing but resume my seat.

On Question, resolved in the negative.

Original Motion agreed to.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1,

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL moved to omit from Clause 1 the words "if there be no other public building available which shall be suitable and convenient for the purpose." He said that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill proposed to give electoral bodies throughout the kingdom, without exception, in districts where there were public elementary schools, a right of using those schools for public meetings; but the restrictive words which he (the Marquess of Bristol) now proposed to omit would, he thought, if left in the clause, entirely cut away the privileges given by the Bill from urban districts. He thought feelings of envy and jealousy would be aroused if rural districts were allowed the use of the schools free of charge while the electors and inhabitants of urban districts had to seek for rooms for their public meetings in other buildings, at the same time being compelled to pay such sums as the avarice of the owners might demand. He appealed to Lord Burghclere, in his endeavour to remove what was an undoubted grievance, to take care not to create another grievance which would be equally irritating.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out from the word 'Act' to the second word 'the' in line 7."—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE said the noble Marquess's Amendment would greatly enlarge the scope of the Bill, and though he might entertain considerable sympathy for it he felt that he would not be acting up to the pledges he had given to the right rev. Bench and their Lordships on the Second Reading if he were now to support it. If there was no other suitable or convenient building in urban districts, then the schoolroom would be at the disposal of the electors under this Bill; but his (Lord Burghclere's) chief object was to meet the cases of rural villages where there were no other places in which the electors could meet, except perhaps a public-house or the Nonconformist chapel.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL: Will my noble friend agree to leave out the word "other"?

LORD BURGHCLERE: I am perfectly willing to agree to that.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES suggested that the noble Marquess should postpone the moving of this Amendment until the next stage.

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL agreed to do so.

LORD BURGHCLERE said the Amendment standing in his name was placed on the Paper in the hope that it would meet the views of the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education. The words in the Bill were taken from the Local Government Act of 1894, of which the Bill was merely an enlargement; but as municipal and Parliamentary electors were now included as well as parochial electors, he moved to leave out "electors and inhabitants" as those entitled to the use of the school, and to insert in their place the words "parochial municipal, or Parliamentary electors." If, however, the Amendment did not meet the wishes of the noble Marquess, he would not press it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 7, after the second word 'the' to insert the words 'parochial, municipal, or Parliamentary,' and to leave out the word 'and inhabitants.'"—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said the Government would take no action one way or the other, and therefore he did not propose to bind himself. The Amendment would to a certain extent more closely define those who might attend the meetings; but for himself he thought it would be better to follow the precedent in the Allotments Act.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON said the meetings would be public meetings and anybody might attend them. The real point was, who was to have the right of making application for the use of the school building for a meeting.

EARL CARRINGTON held that the clause was perfectly clear. The noble Marquess the President of the Board of Education had said that it was full of difficulties and ambiguities, but it clearly stated that the persons who should be entitled to the use of the buildings were the—

"Electors and inhabitants of any district served by a public elementary school receiving a grant out of moneys provided by Parliament."

The Noble Marquess had also asked who were to exclude persons not entitled to attend the meetings. There would be no exclusion at all. There was no power under the Bill to exclude a "carpet bagger" from the meeting. It was purely a question as to who should be entitled to have the use of the schoolroom for the purpose of convening a meeting.

LORD HENEAGE hoped the noble Lord would persist in his Amendment. It was a distinct improvement of the drafting, and he did not see why they should not do all they could to improve the Bill even if His Majesty's Government were unwilling to do so.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL moved to omit the words "free of charge," on the ground that it was a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons for their Lordships' House to insert any such provision.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words 'free of charge.'"—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

LORD HENEAGE supported the deletion of the words "free of charge" in order that the House might be at liberty subsequently to pass an Amendment standing in his name, providing that the school managers should make a fixed charge, which should be payable in advance, for the reasonable expenses incurred by them in connection with the necessary preparation of the room or rooms for the purpose of any meeting, including coals, lighting, and cleaning. He thought this would be far preferable to the cumbrous provisions of Clause 2.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH said he did not understand that the Bill was brought forward for the purpose of lessening the expense of Parliamentary elections, and in those circumstances he saw no reason why school buildings should be let free of charge. Some charge should be made, but it should be a reasonable one. He supported the Amendment.

LORD BURGHCLERE said that in introducing the words "free of charge" he followed the example of the Conservative Government of 1892, who brought in a Bill to effect absolutely the same object as the one now before their Lordships, and which contained a provision that the buildings should be let free of charge. The question of a fixed charge, not for the rent of the building, but for the expenses incurred in preparing the room and for lighting and other matters, was already fully covered by the Bill, which gave the local education authority a right to make rules with regard to the user of the schools; and it was also laid down in Clause 2, Section (a), that any expenses incurred—such as for gas and other matters—could be charged by the managers, and would be payable by the person convening the meeting. If noble Lords thought that the leaving in of the words "free of charge" would prevent the insertion of a provision in that direction, he would suggest that after the words "free of charge" the words "in respect of rent" should be inserted. Free of charge in this Bill and in the Local Government Act of 1894 meant free of charge in respect of rent for the user of the school. The insertion of the words "in respect of rent," as he suggested, would leave open the question of making a fixed charge for gas, firing, and other incidental expenses. If his noble friend would move an Amendment in the form he (Lord Burghclere) now suggested, he would have no objection to it, although he did not think it necessary.

LORD ZOUCHE OF HARYNGWORTH hoped the House would accept the Amendment moved by the Marquess of Bristol. He did not see why a rental, so long as it was not an excessive one, should not be charged in respect of the use of the school buildings for these meetings. There had never been any grievance on the ground of having to pay for a room in which to hold an election meeting, and, if there was no other suitable room, he did not see why a small charge should not be made for the use of the schoolroom.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON thought there was very good reason why no charge should be made in the shape of rent for the use of schoolrooms. These schools were in receipt of a very large amount of public money, and he did think that buildings of that kind might reasonably be expected to discharge a public duty of this sort. He himself had always acted upon that principle and given to candidates of both Parties, without the slightest hesitation or charge, the use of schools over which he had control. The addition of the words "in respect of rent," as suggested by his noble friend, should meet all reasonable objections.

LORD HENEAGE intimated that for himself he would be quite willing to accept the compromise suggested by Lord Burghclere, as he had no wish that any charge should be made for the use of the school.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," their Lordships divided. Contents, 23; Not contents, 45.

CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

Devonshire, D.
Manchester, D.
Northumberland, D.

Ripon, M.

Carrington, E. [*Teller.*]

Spencer, E.

London, L. Bp.
Southwark, L. Bp.

Balfour, L.
Belper, L.
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Burghclere, L.
Leigh, L.

Monkswell, L.
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Reay, L.
Sandhurst, L. [*Teller.*]
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Shuttleworth, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Richmond and Gordon, D.
Rutland, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.
Bristol, M. [*Teller.*]

Pembroke and Montgomery, E. (*L. Steward.*)
Camperdown, E.
Egerton, E.
Feversham, E.
Haddington, E.
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Malmesbury, E.
Mansfield, E.
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Onslow, E.
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Cross, V.
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Allerton, L.
Averbury, L.
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Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
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Crofton, L.
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Hylton, L.
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Lawrence, L.
Ludlow, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Napier, L.
Newton, L.
Ravensworth, L.
Robertson, L.
Sherborne, L.
Sinclair, L.
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Zouche of Haryngworth, L. (*Teller.*)

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL moved to delete the words—

"Any Member of Parliament, county councillor, or member of any public body elected by the ratepayers of the area in which such district is situated."

He thought there was an excess of persons allowed to give notice under this clause. For himself, he would have preferred that the permission should only be given to the candidates or their agents. As he understood the clause, all Members of Parliament could give the notice as well as all county councillors and a vast number of members of miscellaneous bodies. He thought the clause ought to be recast. As a member of the managing body of a small school he was in a state of abject terror when he saw the large number of persons who were to be entitled to demand the use of the school.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out from the word 'by' to the word 'any' in line 14."—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE said the noble Marquess was mistaken. It was not meant that any Member of Parliament or any county councillor could call for the use of the school; but if there was any doubt on the point it could be removed by the insertion, after "Member of Parliament," the words "representing the district or area in which such school is situated." And the same words could be inserted after "county councillor."

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY pointed out that the clause as the Marquess of Bristol proposed to amend it would limit the use of the schools to the Parliamentary candidate. When the candidate got elected he would be debarred from addressing a meeting of his constituents in the school.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee withdrawn.

LORD HENEAGE moved to leave out the words "any of their agents" and to insert "the responsible and duly appointed election agent of such candidate." As the clause at present stood, not only were any of these gentlemen allowed to have the use of the schools on their own application, but the use had to be granted on the application of any of their agents. He thought that was giving a very wide permission, and he hoped the noble Lord in charge of the Bill would accept his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out the words 'any of their agents' and insert the words 'the responsible and duly appointed election agent of such candidate.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE said he was prepared to accept the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL did not know whether the Amendment standing in his name was in order, but he wished to secure that the same fee should be charged for the use of the rooms in the school in the case of public meetings as was charged in the case of other social gatherings or meetings.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word 'given' to insert the words 'and who, if required to do so, shall pay such accustomed charges as are payable by other persons using the rooms in the school.'"—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE did not think that the noble Marquess's Amendment would quite carry out his intention. He therefore suggested that the Amendment should read—

"and, who, if required to do so, shall pay in respect of rent and other charges an amount not exceeding the amount usually paid in respect of such charges by persons using the same room for the purpose of public meetings."

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL was quite willing to accept the suggested Amendment.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY thought the line taken by Lord Heneage in the Amendment standing in his name to Clause 2 was preferable to that contained in the Amendment now before the House. He took it that the House did not wish the managers of the schools to be at any loss, but they did not want the charge to be an unreasonable or prohibitive one. If the Amendment were adopted, persons who did not want their schools used at all had only to fix an unreasonable charge and everyone was shut out. Parishioners in a village should be entitled to make the fullest use, on reasonable terms, of the school building, which was probably the only suitable building in the village. The Amendment which Lord Heneage proposed to move at a later stage provided that the charge should be merely sufficient to cover out-of-pocket expenses. Lord Burghclere, in his desire to get his Bill through, had offered the noble Marquess opposite (the Marquess of Bristol) an Amendment which in a substantial number of places would be injurious to the object he had in view.

LORD BURGHCLERE suggested that perhaps noble Lords would be prepared to accept an Amendment providing that the charges to be made for the use of such rooms should be according to a fixed scale graduated in pro ortion to the number of persons which the school would accommodate, but that in no case should the maximum charge exceed 20s. for each meeting of not more than three hours duration.

LORD HENEAGE said he infinitely preferred the proviso to Clause 2 standing in his name. He believed the desire of most of the school managers was that the schools should be used as far as possible for all proper purposes, but they did desire that they might be entitled to charge a fixed sum such as was paid by other people, and that the sum should be paid beforehand so as to avoid the chance of its being disputed afterwards. The managers would not be likely to fix an unfair sum because they would require the use of the school for persons of their own religious or political persuasion. They should be allowed to have a scale of charges which they could impose upon everybody alike, and he thought that his proviso would carry that out better than any of the suggested Amendments.

LORD BURGHCLERE thought that an Amendment on this point would be more appropriate in Clause 2.

VISCOUNT CROSS agreed, and expressed the hope that the stipulation would be made that the charge should be paid beforehand.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY proposed the insertion of words providing that meetings should not be held on Sundays, on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, or Christmas Day.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word 'held' to insert the words 'on Sundays, nor on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas Day, nor.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE accepted the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY moved a further Amendment for the purpose of preventing meetings infringing on the hours set apart for religious instruction in school, the clause as drafted only providing this safeguard in the case of secular instruction. He explained that the proviso, as amended, would read—

> "Provided that such public meeting shall not be held on Sundays, nor on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas day, nor at such times or in such manner as to interfere with the hours set apart for the religious or secular instruction of day or evening scholars. etc."

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 22, after the word 'the' to insert the words 'religious or.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE accepted the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY explained that the words contained in his next Amendment were taken from a similar provision in the Local Government Act of 1894.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 23, after the word 'school' to insert the words 'or with such other lawful use of the building as has under proper authority been customary, or if the use of the schoolrooms on the said day and at the said time has previously to the receipt of the notice of the meeting been granted for some other purpose.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE accepted the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2:

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH, who had given notice of an Amendment in page 1, line 27, after "provide," to insert—

> "(*a*) That the person on whose behalf the notice is given shall pay to the managers of the school a reasonable sum by way of hire of the room,"

said the sole object of his Amendment was to enable the managers to make a reasonable charge for the use of the school. He was conscious of the difficulty there was in ensuring that the charge should be a reasonable one. His Amendment left it to the local education authority to decide what should be a reasonable sum for the use of the schoolroom, but he was not so wedded to the actual words of his Amendment as not to be prepared to accept the Amendment down in the name of Lord Heneage, which would carry out the object he had in view. He, therefore, would not move the Amendment standing in his name.

LORD HENEAGE said he understood the noble Lord in charge of the Bill was prepared to accept his Amendment. He would, therefore, formally move it.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 10, to leave out the word 'and' and insert the words 'provided that nothing contained in this Act shall prevent any school managers from making a fixed charge for the reasonable expenses incurred by them in connection with the necessary preparation of the room or rooms for the purposes of any meeting, including coals, lighting, and cleaning; and provided also.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE accepted the Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL moved to leave out paragraph (*b*) and to insert the new paragraph in his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, to leave out paragraph (*b*) and to insert the following new paragraph:
>
> "(*b*) That (except during such times as an election is actually in progress) the right to use such rooms shall not be exercised by or on behalf of any particular candidate more than once in reference to the same candidature.'"—(*The Marquess of Bristol.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE was not prepared to accept the Amendment, as it would prevent the use of the rooms on more than one occasion during the whole period of a person's candidature. The sub-section which the noble Marquess proposed to leave out was as follows.

> "(*b*) That (except during such times as an election is actually in progress) no room shall be used for the purposes of this Act by, or on

behalf of, any particular person on more than two occasions during the same year."

He (Lord Burghclere) was willing to meet the noble Marquess by substituting "one occasion" for "two occasions" in the last line of this subsection.

THE MARQUESS OF BRISTOL accepted this Amendment and withdrew, by leave of the Committee, the one he had already moved.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 2, line 14 to leave out the words 'two occasions' and insert the words 'one occasion.'"—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY moved the insertion of a new subsection to secure that the managers of each school should be made aware, when the year began, whether their school came within the category of schools likely to be so demanded. He did not think managers ought to be subjected to this inconvenience without knowing beforehand, in making their arrangements, whether their school rooms were liable during the ensuing twelve months to be used for public meetings by virtue of this Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 14, after the word 'year' to insert the words:

'(*c*) That a day be appointed in each year on or before which the local education authority shall publish a schedule showing what schoolrooms within such district are liable during the ensuing twelve months to be used for public meetings by virtue of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE drew attention to an Amendment standing in his name to Clause 3 which had for its object the substitution of the local education authority for the Board of Education as the authority under the Bill. The local education authority would be able very easily to determine the proper rooms which were to be used, and the Amendment was really unnecessary; but if the most rev. Primate really wished to press his Amendment he would suggest that he should substitute the word "may" for "shall," so as to make it permissive instead of compulsory. There were many districts in which it would be absolutely unnecessary to prepare a schedule.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said he was prepared, at the moment, to accept the suggestion subject to the right to reconsider the point at a later stage. There were, he said, some districts where the local education authority were doing their best to hamper certain schools, and it was possible that in those areas the local education authority would not act with complete fairness.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY spoke of the serious inconvenience which would be caused to the local education authority of the West Riding of Yorkshire and other large areas if the Amendment were adopted. He thought it would be better not to require a schedule to be published, but that managers of schools who thought their schools unsuitable and inconvenient should represent their view to the local education authority.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said it was desirable that the local education authority should consider the question beforehand. If the matter was to be considered after the notice of the meeting was given, he thought the difficulties would be very much greater.

LORD HERRIES hoped the noble Lord in charge of the Bill would retain the words at present in the clause. He was anxious that the interests of non-provided schools should be safeguarded, but thought it would be impossible for the local education authority to send all over the county to find what schoolrooms within their area would be liable to be used under the Act.

LORD BURGHCLERE said it was not his duty to defend the Amendment which had been moved by the most rev. Primate, but the local education authorities to which he referred were the local education committees—the district committees, as they practically were—which in a vast number of cases had been appointed. Those were the persons he wished to make the authority under this Bill, and they would certainly know which schools were available and which were not. At the same time, he was not responsible for the Amendment.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said that if the education authority for the county had divided its area into districts the district authorities were subordinate committees working under the education authority, and were not the education authority.

LORD BURGHCLERE: Yes, but they can report to the education authority.

LORD HENEAGE contended that if the Amendment was inserted difficulties would arise on every side. It would be cumbrous and create a great deal of confusion as to how it was to be carried out.

***EARL SPENCER** appealed to the most rev. Primate not to press his Amendment. He assured him that the drawing up of schedules in the way proposed for the whole of a county would be a most complicated and difficult matter. He thought it would be better that each case should be dealt with as it arose.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said he would withdraw the Amendment after the appeal of the noble Earl, and consider the matter between this and the next stage of the Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3:

LORD BURGHCLERE moved to substitute the local education authority for the Board of Education as the authority under the Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 17, to leave out the words 'Board of Education' and insert the words 'local education authority for the district, provided always that no room or building registered for divine worship, nor any room connected with or attached to any place licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be deemed a suitable room for the purposes of this Act.'"—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

LORD MONKSWELL suggested the advisability of inserting some definition of the word "candidate." He thought that if the provision was left in the Bill as it stood, the mere holding of a meeting in a schoolroom would constitute a person a candidate in the sense that the expenses of the meeting would have to be entered as part of his election expenses. It seemed hardly desirable that this should be the case, especially as the person might not have been actually selected as the candidate, and he should not include in his election expenses the cost of meetings before his candidature was endorsed.

LORD BURGHCLERE did not think the Bill would have the effect which Lord Monkswell feared, but said that if the noble Lord had any doubts on the subject and would draft an Amendment he would consider it at the next stage.

Clause 4 agreed to. Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. (No. 112.)

CLOSING OF LICENSED PREMISES (CHRISTMAS DAY) (IRELAND) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3a."—(*Lord Avebury.*)

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, having given notice to move an Amendment to exclude the Province of Ulster from the operation of this Bill, I should like to say a few words upon it. When I first saw that my noble friend Lord Avebury, who is so active in matters of legislation, had taken up the subject of Christmas Day, it appeared to me that he was poaching on the manor of the right rev. Prelates opposite. My noble friend Lord Avebury occupies an unique position. He is the only man who has been canonised during his lifetime, and not only has he one Saint's Day but four, for each of the four Bank Holidays is called St. Lubbock's Day. Whether, when this Bill passes, another name will be given to Christmas Day in Ireland I do not know. I happened to be spending a holiday recently in Ireland, and I thought it right to endeavour to find out what the feelings of the people there were with reference to this Bill. Knowing what the Presbyterian feeling in Scotland was, I thought that the Presbyterian feeling in Ulster was the same. I found, however, that that was not so. The people of Ulster are not hostile to the Bill. As a matter of fact, it rather surprised me to find that the Irish are so distrustful of their powers of resistance and so anxious for coercion in this matter. As, however, they accept the Bill of my noble friend, I congratulate him upon that fact, and shall certainly not move the Amendment of which I have given notice.

On Question, Bill read 3^a, and passed.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day read for the House going into Committee.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."—(*Lord Avebury.*)

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, our experience earlier in the evening of the result of Ministerial statements on going into Committee is, perhaps, not entirely encouraging, but I am, nevertheless, impelled to say a few words to your Lordships on the position in which the House finds itself with reference to this Bill. Your Lordships will remember that when it last came before us my noble friend Lord Belper, on behalf of the Home Office, moved an Amendment to the effect that the House was not prepared to legislate upon the subject without further information as to the facts of the case, and that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the conditions upon which Sunday trading is now permitted by law. We thought then, and we think now, that my noble friend's Amendment was the proper way of dealing with the Bill on the Table. But that Amendment met with a good deal of objection from different parts of the House. It was objected to by the noble mover of the Bill. It was also, if I remember right, objected to by the most rev. Primate, and the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition supported the proposal that the Bill should be read a second time and referred to a Select Committee.

The Bill now comes back to us from that Committee. It has been, I have no doubt, improved in some particulars, but I am bound to suggest to your Lordships that the Bill as it now stands is not in such a shape that it could with advantage be placed on the Statute-book. I certainly do not impute any blame to the Committee. They were not given a free hand to examine into this difficult and complicated subject, and were necessarily limited to the amendment of the particular Bill placed before them; and I am afraid the result of their labours has been to produce what I can only call a piece of not very successful patchwork. The Bill is to be tacked on to the existing Sunday Observance Act of 1677. That Act is not repealed and remains in force. We shall, therefore, have side by side the old law and the new law, and the result, I am afraid, will be to produce not a few ambiguities and inconsistencies which may lead to extremely inconvenient results.

It is quite clear that the intention of the authors of this Bill is to strengthen the law against Sunday trading. The main proposal, I suppose, if there is one, in the Bill is the proposal that the penalties for Sunday trading should be considerably increased; but, my Lords, side by side with that proposal are other proposals of a wholly different kind, which create very serious exceptions in favour of Sunday trading. If your Lordships will look at the third section of the Bill and at the schedule you will find that there are, in the first place, certain trades which remain wholly unaffected by this Bill. It does not touch, for instance, the trade in intoxicating liquors, which remains where it is under the law already in force. Then, again, the trade in refreshments for immediate consumption remains unaltered, and, curiously enough, the trade in newspapers, magazines, and periodicals also remains uninterfered with, I presume upon the ground that if there is to be free trade in refreshments of the body there should be equal free trade in refreshments of the mind.

Then we come to another class of exceptions dealt with in the second part of the schedule. Those exceptions will have this effect, that the sale of certain commodities, such as bread, fish, fruit, and cooked meat, can only take place before nine o'clock in the morning. There is a third class of exception which is still more remarkable. Under Subsection (b) power is given to the local authority to extend, by resolution, the list of trades which may be practised before the hour of nine o'clock in the morning. So that this state of things will arise, that under this subsection the trade in any particular article may be permitted on Sunday while at the same time, under the existing law, those who trade in that very same article may be punished by fines and penalties.

I must mention yet another exception which also seems to me of a very serious kind. It is the exception contained in Clause 6 of the Bill, under which local authorities are empowered to apply to the Secretary of State for a suspension of the provisions of the Act on the ground that owing to special circumstances they might press with undue and exceptional severity on the general body of the traders and their customers in a particular area. I cannot help thinking that that section will place the Home Secretary in a very invidious position and one in which no Minister should be placed. He will have to hold the balance between those who are in favour of the rigid observance of the Sabbath and those, on the contrary, who hold that a certain class of trading is permissible on the Sabbath day. The result of all these exceptional enactments will, I fear, be that the Bill will operate capriciously and unfairly. It will, I cannot help thinking, be unjust to the smaller traders, who have not the organisation and the means of making themselves heard which are enjoyed by the larger shopkeepers. And, if numerous statements which have been circulated and which your Lordships have seen are to be believed, we are led to the conclusion that these small traders did not have—perhaps it was inevitable—a sufficient opportunity of making their case heard before the Committee of your Lordships' House. These poor people are not pleased, and their customers, who are, I think, entitled to our sympathy, whose opportunities of supplying themselves with the common necessaries of life are very limited, are also discontented with this Bill and would regret to see it become law.

But that is not all. I have here a document which has been circulated by the Lord's Day Observance Society protesting very strongly against the Bill on the ground that it is unnecessary, that it is deceptive, that it is injurious to the best interests of young people, and finally that it will prove impracticable in action. I cannot help thinking that all these documents disclose a somewhat serious state of things, and that they should at least lead us to pause before we too hurriedly pass this measure into law. While I hold this view I do not suggest that your Lordships' House should reject the Bill. I may be permitted to say, in all sincerity, that I regard with the utmost respect the source from which the Bill proceeds, and I respect the opinion of those noble Lords who desire that it should become law; but the fact remains that the Bill has elicited very serious criticism, and, so far as we can judge, there is no chance whatever of its passing into law during the present session of Parliament. In these circumstances, although I certainly should not move the rejection of the measure, I am bound to say that it seems to me at least doubtful whether it would be for the advantage of your Lordships that you should pass it. We, at any rate, who sit on this bench desire that it should be understood that we cannot accept any responsibility for the Bill, and that we regard it as still open to some very serious objections.

*LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, I need hardly say that I have listened to the remarks which have just fallen from the noble Marquess with very great regret. The principal objections that my noble friend took had reference, not to what the Bill does, but to what the Bill does not do. One of the objections made was that the Bill does not repeal the Act of Charles II. I was disposed to take the same view as the noble Marquess that this Act might well be repealed, and I did my best to repeal it in another Bill last year. But it was objected to by Viscount Cross and by Lord Belper, as representing His Majesty's Government, and in deference to these high authorities in the House I did not this year propose to repeal the Act of Charles II. If the noble Marquess thinks this should be done, we should make no objection. The next objection taken by the noble Marquess was that the Bill does not deal with the sale of intoxicating liquors. There are many who would be glad if the Bill could have dealt with that matter, but because you cannot do all you wish in one direction that is no reason why you should refrain from doing what is good in another. Moreover, public-houses have always been dealt with in legislation separately from shops.

The noble Marquess next complains that we permit certain things to be sold up to nine o'clock in the morning. I submit it is too much to expect working people, many of whom live a whole family in a single room in the great Metropolis, to lay in overnight stores of vegetables and other perishable food in hot weather. It has been thought desirable, therefore, to allow poor people the opportunity of buying these perishable articles up to a certain hour on Sunday morning. The noble Marquess expressed somewhat severe opinions with reference to this Bill, but he did not hear the evidence which was given in favour of it. The noble Lords to whom the House entrusted the consideration of this question in Select Committee heard a great deal of evidence, were unanimous in their conclusion, and strongly recommend the Bill to the favourable consideration of the House.

The evidence taken shows that there is a deep and general feeling among the tradesmen of the country in favour of the provisions of the Bill. We obtained the opinion of over 300 tradesmen's associations in all parts of the country, and the Confectioners' Association was the only one which did not wish the Bill to become law. They were almost unanimous in the wish to have their Sunday rest, and they told the Committee that Sunday trading was on the increase, and would, in their opinion, increase further. I venture to say that there are few things upon which there is such unanimity of opinion amongst the trading community as there is upon the desirability of this Bill becoming law. Then the noble Marquess referred to the customers. The Committee obtained a great deal of evidence as to the feeling of the customers. Sunday closing is supported by trade councils and associations all over the country. It is supported by the London Trade Council, the Bristol Trade Council, the Nottingham Trade Council, the Walsall Trade Council, the Irish Trade Council, the Glasgow Trade Council, and various other trade councils throughout the country; not a single trade council has opposed the Bill, and I submit, therefore, to your Lordships that the customers, the poorer classes, as well as the tradesmen themselves, are in favour of the passing of this Bill.

The noble Marquess next referred to Clause 6, which enables, in some cases, local authorities, if they are satisfied that in their particular district there may be reasons why it is undesirable to put the Bill into operation, to avoid doing so. That is not a clause for which I am responsible. It was suggested by the Duke of Northumberland, who was a regular attendant at the Committee, and I will leave him to give the reasons for the clause which he suggested and which the Committee accepted. Another criticism made against the Bill by the noble Marquess is that it would operate capriciously. That is what the law does at present. Some places endeavour to enforce the law, but in most cases it is scarcely put into operation at all because the fines are so small. The noble Lord said the Bill would press hardly on small shopkeepers. That is what the law does at present. Under the present law the maximum fine for Sunday trading is 5s. In those places in which the law is put into operation the small shopkeeper is shut up because he cannot pay the 5s. fine, but the shopkeeper who is doing business on a larger scale pays the 5s., snaps his finger at the law, and opens again, and there are cases of tradesmen being fined 5s. as many as 100 and 200 times and still continuing to trade on Sundays in defiance of the law.

The objections of the Lord's Day Observance Society were referred to by the noble Marquess. There are two societies which are anxious to see Sunday preserved. There is the Lord's Day Observance Society and the Lord's Day Rest Society. The latter society is very strongly in favour of this measure, but the Lord's Day Observance Society objects to it because we give facility for trading in certain perishable articles of food before nine o'clock on Sunday mornings. We thought it necessary to give this facility to poor people to obtain perishable articles, and, as has often happened in connection with temperance legislation, those who hold extreme views on the subject are preventing important and reasonable reform being carried out. Because we do not go quite so far as the Lord's Day Observance Society would wish, they ask your Lordships to throw out this Bill as a whole and prevent the carrying of a reform which is urgently desired by the shopkeeping community throughout the country and by the working classes also. I was very glad to hear the noble Marquess say that he was not going to vote for the rejection of the Bill, but I was sorry to hear him affirm that there was no chance of the Bill passing the other House, though I was not very surprised to hear him make that observation; but, at any rate, by ventilating the question, and by your Lordships passing the Bill, an important step will be taken to check the growing tendency towards Sunday trading, and to preserve that day of rest which is, I believe, so important to this country, not only from a religious point of view, but also from the point of view of the health and well-being of the community

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I rise to move that the Bill be committed on this day three months. I came down to the House to-day prepared to go fully into the question, but the speech of the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was so much to the point that it is hardly necessary for me to go at any length into the matter. But I wish to say one or two words to strengthen what fell from the noble Marquess. The noble Lord in charge of this Bill has described it as a moderate and reasonable measure. On a former occasion I invited my noble friend and your Lordships to go and see the Sunday trading that takes place in London, and if the noble Lord and his Committee had gone to see this trading for themselves, I believe that they would had taken a different view. When I asked my noble friend before the Whitsuntide recess if he had been to see this trading he blandly smiled and shook his head. The other day I again put the question to him, with the same result. I know why he did not go, my Lords. He is a conscientious man, and he knew that if he had gone he would have felt compelled to withdraw his Bill. Personally I have made such a visit, and what did I see? I saw markets crowded with traders and thousands of customers. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that the small traders have no association, and for that reason I speak in favour of small traders and their hardworking customers.

As these people could not put their case properly before the Committee, having no association, a circular was sent out to ascertain the views of the poorer traders, and 2,000 replies were received. One reply says that—

"This Bill would mean total ruin for myself and family, as we depend mostly on the Sunday trade."

Another says—

"If I have to close on Sundays I shall be deprived of my livelihood, and I call it monstrous and unfair."

A widow with four children says—

"The Bill means ruin to me."

Another shopkeeper—a confectioner—writes—

"My average takings for the week total £14. On Sunday alone I take £4 15s. I have rent, taxes, gas, etc., to pay, and can just manage; but if Sunday trading is put a stop to by unfair legislation my business is gone."

A small shopkeeper at New Cross writes—

"When will Lord Avebury stop interfering with the liberty of the subject? The sooner he enjoys a rest the better."

These are poor traders, and their customers are busy all the week, but the noble Lord insists that they must not even be shaved on Sunday. Evidently he has no sympathy with razors or shaving; therefore, if a poor man desires to be tidy and to have his chin shaved so as not to give discomfort to anybody, he must be shaved on Saturday night. That being so, I cannot help observing that a more appropriate title for the measure would be the Sunday Bristles Bill. This Bill would cause the greatest possible inconvenience, cruel inconvenience, to these hardworking people, and I appeal to the House to resist this attempt to do a cruel wrong to small traders and their customers.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day three months.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON: My Lords, I rise to say a few words in support of Lord Avebury's Bill, and I would allude to a representative meeting in the City, over which I presided and at which my noble friend spoke, as showing that the small traders as well as the large traders are in favour of this Bill. Objection was taken at that meeting, at which we were discussing the question of early closing, that we had not dealt with Sunday trading, and when Lord Avebury said that he would bring in a Bill on that subject and I promised to support it that great meeting from end to end cheered us enthusiastically.

I deny that this is a Bill aimed at the small traders as against the big ones. The fact is that the small traders are anxious to get Sunday closing, but whenever they try they are always defeated by one or two rivals. I endeavoured in one large district in London to get the butchers to close on Sundays. They were all, with one exception, anxious to do so, and the man who held out defeated the desire of the rest. And now the idea is to have one law which will bind all the members of a trade in a particular locality. The picture of ruin which has been drawn really depends on the rival being able to keep open while others close. The majority are threatened by the action of the small minority. On the grounds of practical experience, the unanimous feeling of the small traders as well as the big traders, and the fact that wherever it has been tried the voluntary system has broken down by the action of one or two men, I urge strongly that the Bill should be passed.

I am puzzled to know what the Lord's Day Observance Society, in the circular quoted by the noble Marquess the Leader of the House, mean by saying that the Bill would be bad for the young people. My experience is that it is the long hours all the week, and then again on Sunday, which is ruining so many of our young people. I earnestly press on the House not lightly to kill a measure which is for the welfare of the shopkeepers and also of the people they employ.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My Lords, as a member of the Select Committee which considered this Bill, I should like to say one word before we go to a division. In the first place, I would suggest to the noble Earl who has moved the Amendment that it is a somewhat inconvenient course to move the rejection of a Motion for the House going into Committee without notice, and I trust that your Lordships will not agree to that Amendment. The attitude taken by the noble Marquess the Leader of the House has left an impression of a somewhat painful character on my mind, in that he does not appreciate the enormous strength of feeling in favour of a measure of this kind.

I entered upon this inquiry with a perfectly unbiassed mind beyond the abstract feeling, which I suppose all Members of your Lordships' House share, that it is not good for people to have to work seven days a week all the year round; but I confess I was amazed at the enormous weight of evidence in favour of this legislation. It has been found impossible for the majority of traders to close on Sunday if the minority keep open. The noble Marquess the Leader of the House has objected to certain exceptions which we have felt it necessary to suggest. I should have been very glad not to have had those exceptions, but I am certain that the noble Marquess himself would have been the first to point out that, unless we made some exceptions of this kind, the Bill would be hopelessly unworkable. What the House should take to heart is this, that you have an enormous mass of the population working seven days a week, all day long and all the year round. One witness told us—he was a barber, for whom the noble Earl Lord Wemyss has so much sympathy—that he worked every Sunday in the year from seven in the morning till eleven at night. And this Sunday work is increasing by reason of the pressure of competition.

We talk a good deal about the deterioration in the physique of our population. What do you think the physique of the population is going to be if you will allow men to work every day and all day long all the year round? I do not wish, at this stage of the Bill, to say anything about Clause 6, for which, as Lord Avebury has explained to the House, I am responsible. I would rather leave the explanation of it till the Committee stage. I would only say that the noble Marquess the Leader of the House is quite mistaken when he thinks that that clause was intended to put; or, with all respect to him, would have the effect of putting upon the Secretary of State the necessity of deciding between rival opinions with regard to Sunday trading. It was not thought desirable to mention them by name in the clause, but I may tell your Lordships that it was framed mainly, and as far as I was concerned I might almost say entirely, for one section of the population—namely, the Jews, who stand on a totally different footing from any other portion of the population; and whether they are Jews or not in the district affected is a matter which the Secretary of State can perfectly well ascertain. I do not think it would be a very invidious task to put upon him. But, as I have said, I do not wish to discuss the clause now. I would ask your Lordships to take to heart the fact that there is an enormous mass of the population working, as I have said, seven days a week, all day long, and all the year round, and that this is a question which sooner or later must be faced in the interests of health and morality.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, the noble Marquess the Leader of the House having referred to me as one of those who recommended that this Bill should be read a second time and then referred to a Select Committee, I rise to say a few words upon this matter. I feel that those who share the views which I now hold with regard to this Bill are in a position of some difficulty. While I was impressed by the *prima facie* arguments of the noble Lord in charge of the Bill when he moved its Second Reading, I must admit that I have very grave doubt, after having looked at the evidence before the Select Committee whether it is judicious or right to pass the Bill.

I do not wish to go into details, but I share the view which the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has put forward, that there are grave difficulties, especially connected with the consumers; and, notwithstanding what the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of London has said, I believe that the small traders have not been so successful in getting their views expressed as the larger traders. I have very little doubt that any meetings addressed by the right rev. Prelate would be swayed by his arguments, but, in spite of what he has said, I cannot help thinking that the small traders are in a very different position from the large traders in this matter. We know there is a law of Charles II. prohibiting trading on Sunday, and that that law, which is still in existence, is being broken. I want to know whether this Bill encourages the breaking of that law or to some extent puts a stop to it. I confess, having read the Bill, that it does both, and it is very doubtful in my mind which it does most.

I gather from the evidence that numbers of people are only able to purchase their food on Sundays. These are the cases of workmen who do not receive their week's wages until late on Saturday night, and there is a danger in those cases if the money were not expended on food on Sunday morning it would be diverted to the public-house. I can understand the noble Duke's object in inserting Clause 6, but will it act fairly? I gather from the speech of the noble Marquess that he thought the clause would lead to very considerable difficulty, and from the cheer which that observation elicited from the noble Viscount on the Cross Benches, who has been Home Secretary, it is clear that he concurred that the provision would place the Home Secretary very often in a position of great difficulty.

VISCOUNT CROSS: Hear, hear!

EARL SPENCER: In the Metropolis, for instance, we should have one body doing one thing and another body doing another, which would be extremely unfair. I confess I have great difficulty in opposing the Bill, and I share very much the views which the noble Marquess has expressed with regard to it. I have the highest possible respect for my noble friend who introduced the Bill, and I quite admit that there are many strong arguments to be put forward in favour of it; but I am driven to say, after reading the evidence taken before the Select Committee, that I should extremely regret if the Bill were carried at the present moment. I do not know whether it would be worth while, after what the noble Marquess has said, to go through the drudgery of the Committee stage. Personally I should not oppose the Motion for going into Committee, but should reserve to myself the right to oppose the Bill on the Third Reading if it reached that stage.

*LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, I will not occupy more than a moment or two of your Lordships' time, but I should like to answer one or two of the arguments which have been used. This Bill was down for Committee on Monday, and Lord Belper asked me, for his personal convenience, to put it off till to-day. I had not the slightest idea that there was going to be any opposition to the principle of the Bill, and therefore we made no special effort to get our supporters to attend.

LORD BELPER: I informed the noble Lord that I could not be present on Monday, but left it entirely to him whether he would go on with the Bill or not.

*LORD AVEBURY: That is so, but my noble friend expressed the wish that it should be put off. He did not, however, say that there would be any attempt to throw it out on the Motion for the House being put into Committee. Surely it is a strong order, without any notice, to reject the Motion for going into Committee on a Bill which was read a second time without a division, and which, after careful inquiry, was unanimously approved by the Select Committee to whom it was referred. We have been told that this is a question of large shopkeepers against small shopkeepers, but on the Committee we continually asked witnesses—"Are you speaking for large shopkeeper?" They replied—"No, for all shopkeepers." We had the views of over 300 associations of shopkeepers, and only one was opposed to the Bill. Statements have been circulated which altogether misrepresent the object and scope of the Bill. We have been told that poor people will be unable to get their food on Sunday mornings. We were unanimously of opinion in the Committee that with the provision in the Bill there would be no possible difficulty on that score. Great sympathy has been expressed by the noble Earl below me for those who desire to get shaved on Sunday mornings, but the 120 barbers' associations throughout the country, with only one exception, express the wish that their shops should be entirely closed on Sunday.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: But what about their customers?

*LORD AVEBURY: The noble Lord has interrupted me in the middle of a sentence. I was about to add that in order to get the view of the customers I went to the London Trades Council, and was told by the secretary that the closing of barbers' shops on Sundays would cause little or no inconvenience. He said there were some working men who liked best to be shaved on Sunday, but as working men had their Sunday's rest he thought it only right that barbers should have theirs as well. I appeal to the House not to pass the Amendment which has been moved by the noble Earl, but allow the Bill to go into Committee, when all points of difference can be considered. If the Bill is rejected the House will, on a Motion moved without notice, be reversing the decision of its own Select Committee, who, after full consideration, have reported unanimously in its favour.

On Question, "Whether the word proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Motion," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 14 ; Not-Contents, 35.

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Canterbury, L. Abp.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
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Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E Galloway,*) [*Teller.*]
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Willoughby de Broke,

House to be in Committee this day three months.

CRIMINAL CASES (RESERVATION OF POINTS OF LAW) BILL [H.L.].

Amendments reported (according to order) ; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

House adjourned at a quarter past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 29th June, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the County Down (West Down Division) in the room of Captain Arthur Hill (Chiltern Hundreds).—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time tomorrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time tomorrow.

Tees Valley Water Board Bill [Lords]; Hastings Tramways Bill [Lords; Southend and Colchester Light Railways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments. Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Weaver Navigation Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill to be read the third time.

Barrymore Estate Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill to be read the third time.

University College, London (Transfer), Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

Nottingham Corporation Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Whitby Urban District Council Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill, without Amendment.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill, with an Amendment.

Swansea Corporation Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to Rhymney Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITION.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (TAXATION AND PURCHASE OF LAND) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended March 31st, 1905, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Accounts presented, of all Deposits received and paid during the year ended December 31st, 1904, together with a Statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to Depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on December 31st, 1904, and the nature and amount of the Securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those Liabilities at that date [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 215.]

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Accounts presented, showing the Interest accrued in respect of the Securities standing in the names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund for the year ended December 31st, 1904, and of the Fund for the Banks for Savings and the Fund for Friendly Societies for the year ended November 20th, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 216.]

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.

Account presented, showing the Receipt and Expenditure of Naval Prize, Bounty, Salvage, and other Moneys between April 1st, 1904, and March 31st, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 217.]

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Account presented, of the Receipt and Expenditure under the Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act from January 1st to December 31st, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

DEER FORESTS (HIGHLAND CROFTING COUNTIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered February 28th; *Mr. Weir*]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).

Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XI. (Edinburgh, No. 4) (Institution of Degrees in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, and relative Regulations) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 218.]

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).

Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. XII. (Edinburgh, No. 5) (Inclusion of Geography among the subjects qualifying for Graduation in Arts) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 219.]

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Lunacy.—Copy of Fifty-ninth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 220.]

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Return ordered, "relative to the working of the Wireless Telegraph Act for the first three months of the year from January 1st to March 31st, 1905, viz. :—

(1) The number of messages, under the terms of the arrangement with the Marconi Company, handed by the general public to the Post Office for transmission to ships at sea;

(2) The number of these messages that failed to be delivered, showing for how many the senders applied for refund of the charges and the number (if any) for which the refund was refused, with the reasons for such refusal;

(3) The number of messages received from ships at sea and delivered by the Post Office to the general public;

(4) The amount of cash received during the three months by the Post Office for such inward and outward messages, and the proportion due to the Post Office and the Marconi Company;

(5) The cost incurred during the same period by the Post Office in instructing the Postal Telegraph Offices throughout the country in connection with the Marconi service.

Generally, in regard to the Wireless Telegraph Act, the number of licences to use wireless telegraphic apparatus applied for, with the name and nationality of the applicant, the name of the system, the position of working and radius of action, and the reasons for refusal (if any) of the licence or licences."—(*Captain Norton.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

White and Coloured Labour in the Transvaal Mines.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state what were the numbers of white men, of Kaffirs, and of Chinese employed on the gold mines of the Transvaal on May 31st; and what was the ratio of whites employed for every 1,000 coloured, Kaffirs and Chinese together.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The numbers are:—white, 16,676; coloured, 106,864; Chinese, 38,111. The ratio is 1 white to 8·6 coloured and Chinese.

Cootehill Union Fever Hospital—Death of a Patient after an Operation.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on or about June 20th, 1904, the medical officer of the Cootehill Union, county Cavan, performed an operation on a patient called Fitzpatrick in the fever hospital, after a local doctor who usually assists at all such operations refused to administer ether because of the low condition of the patient; whether he is aware that the medical officer of the workhouse then called in a doctor from outside the Cootehill district, performed the operation, and the patient died a few hours after; whether the Local Government Board was informed of the facts and the cause of death in this case; and whether there was an inquest held or a sworn inquiry ordered.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Local Government Board are informed by the clerk of the union that the facts are substantially as stated. The local doctor referred to did not, however, refuse to administer ether, but asked to be excused as he was not in good health. The patient died on the day following the operation. No complaint was made to the Board, and no inquest or sworn inquiry was held. The medical officer who performed the operation has the reputation of being a most careful and competent surgeon, and the Board see no reason to presume that there were any circumstances connected with the patient's death which require investigation.

H.M.S. "Excellent"—Case of Stoker Parnell.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that Edward George Henry Parnell, 1st class stoker on H.M.S. "Excellent," who met with an accident at Whale Island, Portsmouth, on January 29th, 1904, was, as a result of the injuries he then received, declared unfit for further service and granted a pension of £28 3s. per annum; that he received notice on April 15th, 1905, to attend on H.M.S. "President," in East India Dock, for re-survey; and that his pension was subsequently reduced to £19 for twelve months; and will he explain what special circumstances warranted a reduction in his pension; is it proposed to continue his present pension or to restore the original amount, or is it the intention of the Admiralty to call upon this man for further service, notwithstanding that medical authorities have already declared him unfit for naval duty again.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The facts are as stated in the hon. Member's Question. The original award was for one year and was based on the report of the medical authorities that the man was not at all able to contribute to his own support. On re-survey, in April last, Parnell was reported to be able to contribute in a small degree to his own support, and his pension was reduced to 1s. 0½d. a day, this being the maximum allowable under Scale III. of Article 2134 of the King's Regulations. He will be re-surveyed before the expiry of his present pension in June, 1906, and the pension then awarded will entirely depend upon the medical report. This man cannot be called upon for further service.

Threats to Assassinate Scottish Members.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Lord-Advocate whether he is aware that three Members of this House representing Scotch constituencies have received letters threatening their assassination; and whether he can state what steps have been taken by the police in connection therewith.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) I am aware that one Member of this House received a threatening letter. The letter, which was anonymous, was in Italian. The police are making inquiries, but have been unable as yet to discover the writer.

Suggested Railway Station for Kilconnell.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to a resolution of the Ballinasloe Rural District Council, in which it is stated that the district of Kilconnell loses nearly £1,000 per annum for want of a railway station; and whether he will take some action towards improving the condition of the people of that district.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the Board of Trade, but so far as the Board are aware the company are under no statutory obligation to build a station at Kilconnell, and the Department have no jurisdiction in the matter.

Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company.

MR. McKEAN (Monaghan, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if his attention has been drawn to the proposed reduction of the capital of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company; and, if so, and having regard to the losses incurred by numbers of the public owing to the dealings of unscrupulous financiers with the affairs of the company, he will undertake next session to introduce a Bill to amend the Companies Acts so as to render a recurrence of such a state of things impossible, or to bring the guilty parties within the reach of the criminal law.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) My attention has not been directed to this matter except by the hon. Member, and I cannot express any opinion upon it. But, as regards the Companies Acts generally, I may remind the hon. Member that a Departmental Committee was appointed by the President of the Board of Trade early in the session to consider Amendments to those Acts. That Committee is still sitting.

Mohorough School Teacher's Salary.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the different items which were taken into consideration in fixing the consolidated salary of the principal teacher of Mohorough, N.S. Roll No. 5,094, and which sum amounted to £85; what were the items in the same case when the salary was fixed at £87; and will he explain how the unit of distribution of annual capitation grant for year 1901 amounted to 5s.1d., whilst the unit for 1902, 1903, and 1904 amounted to 5s. only.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The consolidated salary of £85 per annum awarded to Mr. P. M'Carthy, teacher of Mohorough National School, was arrived at as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In respect of class salary rate	44	0	0
In respect of 20% increase on class salary	8	16	0
In respect of residual capitation grant	11	1	4
In respect of results fees .	14	2	6
In respect of Customs and Excise grant	6	9	10
Total . . .	84	9	10

When a consolidated salary of £87 per annum was erroneously awarded to Mr. M'Carthy in the first instance, £15 10s. 8d. was allowed in respect of results fees, and £6 18s. 4d. in respect of Customs and Excise grant, instead of the correct sums under these headings as stated above. The residue of the school grant available for distribution as a capitation grant for 1901, when divided by the average attendance of pupils between three and fifteen years of age for that year, was such as to enable payment to be made at the rate of 5s. 1d. per unit on the average attendance.

Longford Military Manœuvres—Damage to Crops.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that a number of troops are being manœuvred at different parts in county Longford; whether any steps are being taken to compensate farmers whose crops may be injured in the course of these military manœuvres; and will he state to whom claims are to be made in such cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Bromley Davenport.*) Small bodies of troops have lately manœuvred from Mullingar. Steps are always taken to compensate farmers whose crops may be injured, claims being inquired into on the spot by the officer commanding the troops.

Canning's Statue.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether consideration has now been given to the suggestion that the enclosure round Canning's statue in Parliament Square should be opened to the public, and laid out so as to correspond in appearance and utility with the garden which adjoins it on the South.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The First Commissioner regrets that he is unable to give any undertaking with regard to this enclosure.

Hyde Park Motor-Car Regulations.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, under what authority the First Commissioner of Works has excluded private carriages from Hyde Park; and why it is proposed to admit some private carriages while others are precluded from the use of Hyde Park.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) If the Question refers to the exclusion of motor vehicles between the hours of four and seven p.m., I have in reply to refer the hon. Member to the Answer given to the hon. Baronet the Member for Barrow-in-Furness on June 27th.†

Civil Service Pensions.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the practice of the Treasury, even prior to the passing of the Superannuation Act, 1859, to reckon towards pension temporary service followed without interruption by established service, he will explain why the senior assistant clerks are called upon to deduct half their temporary service, amounting in some cases to as much as twelve-sixtieths of their salary; and whether he will revise the rules enforcing such a deduction, to allow them to reckon all their continuous service towards pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) It has not been the invariable practice of the Treasury to reckon temporary service for pension when followed by established service. The practice depends on the circumstances of each class of employment. Registered copyists were not entitled by the conditions of their employment to reckon for pension any of their service as such. When appointed assistant clerks they are allowed, as a special concession, to reckon half of such service; and I see no reason for carrying this concession any further.

Infantile Mortality.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what is the death rate per 1,000 births of infants under the age of twelve months in the urban and the rural districts respectively of England and Wales.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The best available information on this subject will be found on pages lxxiii. and lxxiv. of the Registrar-General's Sixty-sixth Annual Report, which contains tables showing the infantile mortality—(a) for a group of counties that are mainly urban; and (b) for a group of counties that are mainly rural in character. The following particulars are taken from these tables:—

Infantile Mortality—Deaths under one year of age per 1,000 births.

	Averages for the years 1898–1902.	Year 1903.
Urban Counties	165	143
Rural Counties	126	107

Learners in the Dublin Post Office.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state how many fully qualified learners there are in the General Post Office, Dublin, at present with almost two years service, having only 5s. or 6s. per week; how many are there at present employed on relief duty in Ireland at from 10s. to 25s. per week with less qualifications and with shorter service; and will he in future give the learners in Dublin the option of relief duty outside Dublin when their turn comes, according to seniority and qualifications.

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† See page 257.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I will make inquiry on the subject and communicate the result to the hon. Member.

The Post Office—Lord Stanley's Revision —Overseers and Re-classification of Offices.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the date upon which he intends to publish his scheme dealing with overseers and re-classification of offices; whether, in view of the fact that many hundreds of men and women at the maximum salary of their respective classes throughout the United Kingdom have not received the smallest benefit from the portions of the scheme already published, he will date any promotions from the 1st April, 1905, that being nearly two years from the date of the promised appointment of the Bradford Committee.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I have sanctioned additional overseerships for London, and steps are being taken to fill the new appointments. I hope in due course to be able to announce my decision as regards the provincial overseers; but I may at once say that the creation of additional overseerships at many of the smaller offices would not be warranted. I do not think there is any hardship if an officer fails to obtain advancement immediately on reaching the maximum of the scale, and I regret that I am unable to adopt the hon. Member's suggestion that the promotions should date from the 1st April.

Town Sub-Postmasters' Salaries.

MR. SCHWANN: To ask the Postmaster-General what additions, if any, have been made to town sub-postmasters' salaries during the past twenty years.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I am having a statement prepared, and I will send it to the hon. Member.

Factory Inspection in the Potteries—Miss Martindale.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department during what period the services of Miss Martindale, His Majesty's woman inspector stationed in the Potteries, have been intermitted, and when it is proposed that she should return thither.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) Miss Martindale was stationed temporarily in the Potteries in February, 1904, and spent most of her time there until February of this year. During that period she visited practically all the potteries under special rules in England. At the end of last year I arranged for the addition to the lady inspector's branch of an inspector who should be allocated chiefly to work in Ireland, and should have her residence there, but one-third of whose time (or the equivalent amount of time of another inspector) should be available, at any rate for the present, for special inspection work in the Potteries. Miss Martindale has been selected for this post, but I cannot state the precise dates when she will be in the Potteries.

Alien Immigration Return.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he will consider the desirability of publishing and circulating with the monthly Return of Alien Immigration a monthly Return of the emigrants from the United Kingdom to places out of Europe, giving the same particulars as are now available upon the lithographed form prepared by the Board of Trade but not circulated amongst Members.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) This Return shall be circulated in future as desired.

Industrial Alcohol.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer when he proposes to introduce the Bill embodying the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Industrial Alcohol; and whether he will state whether it is the intention of the Government to pass the Bill into law during this session.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The Bill was introduced last week. I hope that it will pass into law this session with the general assent of the House.

Number of Europeans and Natives Employed in Indian War Material Factories.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty: To ask the Secretary of State for) India, having regard to the fact tha there are eleven factories in India engaged in the manufacture of war material, will he state the number of Europeans and natives respectively employed in each factory.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I am unable to state the number of Europeans and natives respectively employed in each factory, but the total number employed in all the eleven factories is as follows:—Europeans and Eurasians, 389; Natives, 14,152.

Calcutta High Court—"Imperator v. Rolt."

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has yet received from the Government of India a repo.t of the proceedings in the case of Imperat r *v.* A. O. Rolt, tried in the Calcutta High Court on the 20th December; and will he lay Papers on the subject upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I have not received the Report of the Government of India on the case.

Indian Labour for the Soudan.

Sir EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the scarcity of employment in India, and the recorded disinclination of the Indian Government to countenance coolie importation into the Transvaal, he will consider the expediency of arranging with the Soudan Government for drafting Indian labour into the Soudan for the purpose of cotton culture and for the development of that country generally.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I am not aware that employment is scarce in India; but if the Soudan Government should desire to import Indian labour, and make an application to the Indian Government to that effect, it would receive due consideration.

Promotion in the Belfast Post Office.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in connection with the last appointment to the class of clerks or overseers at Belfast the nominee of the postal superintendent was rejected at headquarters; and whether, in view of the statement of the superintendent of the senior sorting clerk that he had been recommended, he will say what action, if any, does he propose to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) As promotions in the Post Office are made by me, I have been requested by the Chief Secretary to answer this Question. I cannot discuss with the hon. Member the grounds upon which my choice of the officers best qualified for promotion is exercised. I am, myself, solely responsible in the matter.

Forthill Burial Ground, Galway.

Mr. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that complaints have repeatedly been made regarding the condition of Forthill burial ground, county Galway; and whether, in view of the fact that desecration of graves in this burying ground has taken, and is frequently taking, place, he will order an inquiry to be made into the whole circumstances.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) In April, 1904, the Local Government Board received a complaint that this burial ground was overcrowded, with a request that further interments should be prohibited. The medical officer of health of the Galway Urban District Council thereupon reported that there was still plenty of room for interments in the burial ground. No further complaints have been received by the Board, but they are prepared to consider any facts which may be brought to their notice.

Constable Lynch, Royal Irish Constabulary.

Mr. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why Constable Lynch, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, stationed at Ballygawley, has been promoted over the heads of at least five other constables of unblemished character, senior to him on the lists for promotion, and say on whose recommendation the exception was made.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Constable Lynch, who has had nearly twenty-three years service, was recently promoted on the recommendation of his superior officers as being the most eligible for promotion at the time. No exception to the ordinary rule was made in his case. Seniority is but one of several factors which govern promotion.

Irish Land Commission Rules.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is intended to replace the provisional rules of the Irish Land Commission of the 4th December, 1903, by rules of a final and complete character; and, if so, at what date will such latter rules be published.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) It is intended to replace the provisional rules of the 4th December by rules of a final and complete character, in which will be embodied all rules incorporated in the provisional rules. Owing to pressure of work of a judicial and administrative nature the Commissioners have not as yet been able to complete the new code of rules, but hope to do so by an early date.

War Stores Scandal—Colonel Morgan's Promotion.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War, in view of the statement that the Secretary of State for War decided in January, 1905, to appoint a Departmental Committee to inquire into sales and refunds in South Africa, before which the conduct of certain officers was likely to come under review, can he explain how it was that pending the result of that investigation Colonel Morgan, one of the officers concerned, received promotion on 3rd February, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan was selected for promotion to his present rank by the Selection Board on the advice of the Quartermaster-General. As there did not appear to be any sufficient reasons to the contrary his promotion was duly approved.

South African Field Force Canteen Accounts.

MR. PIRIE: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state if the War Office have published the accounts of the South African Field Force Canteen during the war for the information of the Army, as laid down by military regulations; and, if so, when were they published; and can a copy be laid upon the Table of the House; and, if not, will he explain the reason for his decision.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) There is no military regulation binding the War Office to publish accounts of canteens for the information of the Army. The result of the winding-up of the Field Force Canteens and the disposal of the residual profit of more than a quarter of a million sterling for the benefit of the Army was given in the reply to the Question put by the hon. Member for North Camberwell on the 13th April.†

Army Promotion Warrant of 1900.

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that under Warrant of 1900 officers of the rank of major-general are only promoted on appointment to work carrying the rank of lieutenant-general and that several major-generals have been recently promoted without receiving any appointment, he will say what does he propose to do with reference to general officers who have been thus recently superseded.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) It is proposed in future to maintain an establishment of twenty British-service lieutenant-generals, irrespective of whether appointments carrying the rank of lieutenant-general are vacant or not. The system of promoting to the rank of lieutenant-general will be by selection as heretofore, and no change is contemplated beyond the fact that major-generals will be selected to fill an establishment of lieutenant-generals in anticipation of appointments in that rank falling vacant for them. These officers who are not selected for promotion will continue to serve as major-generals.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlv., 58

Strike of Haversack Makers at Chatham.

MR. TENNANT: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a strike among the women employed by Messrs. Hibbert and Company, of Slickett's Hill, Chatham, owing to the pay received by them for the making of haversacks; whether this work, which was paid for by Messrs. Hibbert at the rate of 1s. 3d. a dozen, is similar to that for which 5s. is paid at the Pimlico Army Clothing Factory; and, if so, what steps he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) I have been informed of the strike mentioned, which is now over. No work on haversacks is performed at the Pimlico Clothing Factory, and, therefore, no comparison in prices can be made.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Keyham Dockyard.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): On behalf of the hon. Member for Leicester, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether foreign granite is still being used in the dockyard construction at Keyham; and, if not, where and by whose orders were the conditions as to the use of British granite only enforced upon the contractors.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARTHUR LEE, Hampshire, Fareham): Practically the whole of the granite required for Keyham Dockyard extension has already been supplied; a small portion, however, still remains to be fixed. I am not in a position to say how much of the portion not yet fixed is British, but I may say that, taking the contract as a whole, about two thirds of the granite supplied is British, and one-third foreign. No alteration has been made in the terms of the contract as regards sources of supply of granite.

The War Stores Scandal—General Lyttelton's Telegrams.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when does he propose to lay upon the Table of the House the telegrams from Lieutenant-General Sir Neville Lyttelton quoted by the Secretary of State for India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): As the telegrams were read out in full to the House by my right hon. friend and will appear in *The Parliamentary Debates*, it would appear unnecessary to print them as a separate Parliamentary Paper.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, whether it is not the Rule of the House that when a Minister quotes from a telegram the whole telegram should be laid upon the Table of the House.

*MR. SPEAKER: That certainly is the rule. When a quotation is made from a document by a Minister the whole document must be produced.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There is no objection to going through the form of presenting these Papers.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman lay them on the Table, and when?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: As soon as they are printed.

Right of Army Officers to Demand a Court-Martial.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether paragraph 438 of the King's Regulations for the Army, under which an officer has no right to demand a Court-martial upon himself, precludes the officers who have been relieved from duty in consequence of the Report of the Committee on Sales and Refunds to Contractors in South Africa from making such application; and whether it was intended that such officers should be deprived of corps pay by reason of having been so relieved from duty, although no charge had been made against them and the Public Prosecutor had reported there were no grounds for making any.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT, Cheshire, Macclesfield): Paragraph 438 of the King's Regulations applies to all officers alike, and the officers mentioned in the Question have no right to demand a Court-martial. These officers are at present receiving their full pay.

The Sales of Surplus Stores in South Africa—Details Wanted.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Dewsbury, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that a statement has been made of the total value of surplus stores sold in South Africa after the conclusion of the war, in anticipation of the findings of the Royal Commission, he can give the details which make up the alleged total receipts for such sales amounting to about £6,000,000.

MR. McKENNA: On behalf of the hon. Member for Dewsbury, I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the sums amounting in the aggregate to about £6,000,000, said to have been produced by the sale of surplus stores in South Africa after the conclusion of the war, have been or are about to be credited in any Army Appropriation Accounts; if so, in what year's accounts were they or will they be credited, and what are the amounts respectively for each year.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Sums exceeding £6,000,000, the proceeds of sales in South Africa, have been brought to credit in Army Appropriation Accounts for the years 1902–3 and 1903–4. A Return is being prepared, and will be laid as soon as possible, giving detailed information.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): Does that include the sales of captured stock?

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: No; no figures so far given include the price of captured stock.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) asked whether the sum of £6,000,000 realised was in respect of the £8,000,000 worth of stores in question.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: That is some of the detailed information which will be given as far as possible in the Return promised by my right hon. friend.

MR. McKENNA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is able to state the amount realised in respect of the sale of those surplus stores only which were estimated by Lord Kitchener in his cable of 18th June, 1902, to be of the value of some six or seven millions sterling.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: My right hon. friend is not able to state the amount realised by the sales of the particular supplies referred to in Lord Kitchener's telegram, because we have no exact details as to the basis on which the estimate was framed; but I can say that sums in excess of £6,000,000 have been brought to credit in Army accounts for sales for the years 1902–3 and 1903–4.

MR. McKENNA: Can the hon. Gentleman say whether one penny of the amount which appears in the account for 1902–3 refers to the £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 mentioned by Lord Kitchener? Can the hon. Gentleman not give the House some estimate of what the stores referred to by Lord Kitchener, and those only, realised?

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I can certainly say that one penny is included; but I should be very greatly astonished if, as a matter of fact, the Return does not include £5,000,000 or £6,000,000. It will be stated in the Return.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): Will the cost of stores imported into South Africa during the period covered by the Return be included? That is the vital question.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Yes, Sir.

MR. McKENNA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the promised account of the sale of stores will include a detailed account of the specific stores, mentioned by Lord Kitchener in June, 1902, as being of the value of £6,000,000 or £7,000,000? What we desire is an account of these stores separate from that of the stores supplied since.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: As far as is possible, the promised Return as to the stores contracts will be made in the form suggested by the hon. Member.

The Monthly Reports of Sales of Stores —Responsibility for Discontinuance.

Mr. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War by whose authority it was that the return of 31st July, 1902, requiring monthly reports of sales in South Africa, was cancelled upon 24th April, 1903.

Mr. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the gentleman responsible for the order for monthly returns of all sales and repurchases of Government stores in South Africa not having been carried out, and for the cancelling of this order in April, 1903, is at present engaged in military or civil duties; and whether, if so, he is to be relieved of these duties pending the investigation of the Royal Commission appointed to investigate all matters connected with these sales and repurchases.

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The responsibility for the action mentioned will form part of the inquiry by the Royal Commission. I am not, therefore, in a position to give the hon. Members any information on the points raised.

Mr. TREVELYAN: May I ask whether the responsibility for the return of 31st July, 1902, is a different responsibility to that by which that return was cancelled? The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India took the responsibility for calling for it.

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I understood my right hon. friend to say that he was not prepared to state to the House his information as to the responsibility for the reports not having been furnished.

Mr. TREVELYAN: Many of us understood him to decline to take the responsibility of saying who had refused to send the return.

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: No, Sir.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: My Question is whether this particular gentleman is to be relieved of his duties pending the decision of the Commission.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I can give no undertaking of that kind. Where the responsibility lay will be a matter for the decision of the tribunal.

Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the Secretary of State for India, who was at the War Office at the time, would be consulted.

*Mr. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether the Commission were to investigate the responsibility for failures to make the returns as well as the other questions.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is almost inevitable that this question should be discussed by the Commission.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Could anyone authorise the suppression of an order except the Secretary of State for War?

[No Answer was returned.]

General Sir William Butler and the War Stores Commission.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of adding General Sir William Butler to the Commissioners appointed to investigate the sale of stores and refunds in South Africa, in view of the fact that, as the Chairman of a Departmental Committee which has partially investigated some of them, he already has acquired considerable knowledge in regard to them.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): Sir William Butler will in all probability be called as a witness by the Commission that has been appointed, but I do not think anything would be gained by adding him to the Commission. In fact, the terms of reference almost seem to exclude him.

Lord Milner and the War Stores.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any correspondence took place between the Colonial Office and the War Office, and between that Office and Lord Milner in regard to the refusal of the latter to take over further stores under the control of the War Office in regard to the requirements for repatriation; if so, whether he will lay it upon the Table of the House; whether he can state what purchases for the requirements of repatriation have been made since this refusal of stores similar to those offered by the War Office; and what has been their cost.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington): No such correspondence took place.

India—Lord Curzon and the Military Command.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Viceroy has unconditionally accepted the proposals contained in the Secretary of State's despatch of 31st May, or whether he has requested that certain modifications shall be made in them before he can accept them; and what is the nature and extent of these suggested modifications.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have nothing to add to what I stated yesterday† on this subject.

MR. BUCHANAN: As the right hon. Gentleman cannot answer the Question now I shall repeat it next week.

Odessa Disturbances.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): I beg, in accordance with private notice, to ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the large number of British subjects at Odessa, he can give the House any information as to the position of things there.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): The only information we have received is from our Consul at Odessa to the effect that the battleship "Kniaz Potemkin" had arrived in port, that the crew had mutinied and murdered all the officers except three, that harangues were being made to the populace, and that shots were being exchanged between the people and the police; but he does not indicate that he apprehends any special danger to British subjects or property at Odessa.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Does the telegram indicate whether the battleship has or has not bombarded the town?

EARL PERCY: It indicates apprehension that a bombardment might take place, but not a bombardment.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether any precautionary measures are intended to be taken for the protection of British lives and shipping and other property in the Black Sea?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It seems difficult to see what precautions can be taken in regard to disorders taking place in a town not under British jurisdiction.

Motor-Car Speed Limit.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take into consideration the expediency of instructing the police that in cases where in their opinion the speed limit is exceeded, or where the cars are driven at a speed inconsistent with the public safety, they should write to the owners of the cars in question, giving them notice of the conduct of their drivers.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's); I have considered the suggestion which has been made by the hon. Member, but I am not prepared to adopt it. Cautions are given in suitable cases, but I could certainly not assent to the view that, where the facts justify a prosecution, a caution should be given instead.

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† See page 373.

The Medical Register.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, having regard to the fact that the General Medical Council state that during the last ten years twenty names have been struck off the Medical Register for infamous conduct in a professional respect, and that of this number four were removed on charges of adultery, will he state how many names have been r moved on this charge during the current year.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The Answer to the Question is, three. I must add that the Medical Register is a matter with which I have no concern, and that any other information which the hon. Member may desire would no doubt be furnished to him by the General Medical Council, if he makes application to the Registrar.

Montgomery Non-Provided Schools.

LIEUT.-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Montgomeryshire Education Authority passed a resolution on the 20th instant to the effect that the payments of the claims and salaries on account of the non-provided schools for the quarter ending June 30th should be deferred until July 17th, pending the report of the executive committee on the replies from the managers to a letter addressed to them in the matter of the repairs, alterations, and additions to the school buildings, as required by the county surveyor; and will he say what steps, if any, he proposes to take to ensure that the teachers' salaries may be paid as usual pending the negotiations and settlement of the question of repairs and additions between themselves, on the one hand, and the education authority and the Board of Education on the other.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The Board have received no intimation from the local education authority of the passing of the resolution referred to, nor have any complaints been received from managers. Until the receipt of complaints, it is impossible to say what steps, if any, it may be necessary to take in the matter; but when any such complaints are received, the Board will at once communicate with the authority on the subject.

Big Ben.

MR. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Lancashire, Chorley, whether he is aware that for the last few days one of the faces of Big Ben has assumed a greenish hue; if so, whether he is responsible for that phenomenon or whether it is due to some occult agency.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): The occult agency is an attempt on the part of the Office of Works to effect certain economies. The reason why I asked my hon. friend to put a notice on the Paper, which he has not done, was that there are scientific matters involved which I do not understand and a certain number of foreign words which I am unable to pronounce.

MR. J. F. HOPE: Is the noble Lord aware that the phenomenon has been interpreted as an omen that the Home Rule controversy is entering on an acute phase?

LORD BALCARRES: Perhaps the hon. Member for the Scotland Division is able to inform my hon. friend about that.

Lemreway (Stornoway) Schoolmastership.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether the Scottish Education Department have received a petition, signed by all the parents of children attending the public school at Lemreway, Stornoway, urging that Mr. John D. Mitchel should be retained in his appointment as master of the school; and, if so, what action he proposes to take.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): The Department have received the petition referred to by the hon. Member, and are inquiring into the matter.

Missing Belfast Children.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that two children, named Flannigan, age five and six years respectively, were reported to the police as being missing from their home at Short Strand, Belfast, since April 24th last, and that the police informed the mother of these children that they had been placed in a home or industrial school by the Rev. Mr. Kerr, C.C., who has refused to give any information about the children; and will he cause inquiries to be made into the matter.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The mother of these children has complained to the police that they have disappeared, and the Rev. Mr. Kerr has stated to the police that he knows where the children are, and that they are in safe custody. This is all the information the police have, and upon it they cannot take any action.

MR. SLOAN: Is there no redress for the mother, the children having been taken away against her will, and Mr. Kerr having refused to tell her where they are?

MR. WALTER LONG: I am not, as the hon. Gentleman knows, a lawyer, but I believe that the civil law is open to her, by which she can obtain redress, but on the information the police have they can take no action on her behalf.

MR. SLOAN: In view of the fact that the police have made inquiries as to where the children are, is there any reason why the mother should not be admitted to see them?

MR. WALTER LONG: I think my hon. friend is not quite correct. I do not think the police know where the children are, though the Rev. Mr. Kerr says that he knows where they are.

MR. SLOAN: Have they no power to see that this woman is admitted to talk to her own children?

MR. WALTER LONG: It does not rest with the police to act. If the children were taken away improperly, the police have no power to take action.

SIR ERNEST FLOWER (Bradford, W.): Surely, having regard to the fact that the children were taken away without the mother's consent, the police can act without the authority of a justice of the peace?

MR. WALTER LONG: I have given an Answer to my hon. friend containing all the information we have—namely, that these children have been removed, and that the Rev. Mr. Kerr has stated that he knows where they are. The police have no reason to believe that they are in an industrial school——

MR. SLOAN: Does the right hon. Gentleman suggest that the children have been kidnapped?

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not say that. All I know is that the mother says she has lost her children, and that Mr. Kerr says that he knows where they are. The police cannot act unless they have legal power to act. They cannot compel Mr. Kerr to divulge his information. It is, I admit, a very extraordinary case.

Public Trustee and Executor Bill.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for Leicester, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government will give any facility for the passing into law this session of the Public Trustee and Executor Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can only say that this Bill is one the Government are very desirous of seeing passed, but I can give no pledge on the subject at the present time.

Electric Carriages in Hyde Park.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): On behalf of the hon. Baronet the Member for West Edinburgh, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will put down for an early date the Vote for the Office of Works, in order to enable the House to discuss the question of the inclusion of electric carriages in the

Order which excludes motor vehicles from Hyde Park between four p.m. and seven p.m.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This must depend on the other claims on the time of the House, and I suspect that, however important this subject be, it may be crowded out by other subjects more important—or more important, that is to say, in the general view of the House.

Education (Scotland) Bill.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to proceed with the Education (Scotland) Bill in Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think I have anything to add to the Answer I gave yesterday †, which was to the effect that I cannot fix a day for this Bill, and that we must make some progress first with the Scottish Churches Bill.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS: Does the right hon. Gentleman intend to proceed with the Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I wish to proceed with it, but I cannot promise to do so.

Musical Copyright.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he intends to deal in the present session with the question of musical copyright, in view of the loss and hardships now caused to musical composers, publishers, and the music trade and profession by musical piracy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have been in communication with my right hon. friend the Home Secretary, who has the matter in hand. If a favourable opportunity occurs I hope something may be done to remedy what is undoubtedly a heavy injustice.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: Am I to take it this Answer implies that the right hon. Gentleman will promote a measure if assured that it will be treated as non-controversial. I have authority to say it would be so treated by the hon. Member for Waterford.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR accepted this statement, but was afraid it could not be assumed that because a Bill met with the approval of the greater part of the House, it would prove to be non-controversial generally. There was plenty of experience to the contrary.

SUPPLY [12th ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1905-6.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,768,300, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the expenses of the *Personnel* for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said he presumed they would, as usual, be allowed to take a general discussion on shipbuilding questions on that Vote. The first point he wished to raise was the scheme of discarding certain ships which was announced at the beginning of the session. He made no complaint of the statement of Lord Selborne, but the policy was announced to the country before the opening of Parliament by the Prime Minister in language which ought not to be forgotten. The right hon. Gentleman told a Party meeting at Glasgow that by a "courageous stroke of the pen" the Admiralty had abolished 130 vessels, and by this remarkable achievement the efficiency of the Navy had been increased, and large savings would be effected to the extent of hundreds of thousands, and indeed of millions, annually. He adopted from his audience the words "bad rubbish" as a description of these ships.

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† See page 384.

This was only one of the aspects of this question. It was not merely that the Board of Admiralty had laid down the rule that a ship, however useful in time of peace, was not only useless but worse than useless in time of war if it possessed neither fighting power nor speed, but it had gone further and it had with one courageous stroke of the pen abolished 130 ships, with the result that the cost of their maintenance and repair was to be struck off the Estimates while the fighting power of the British Fleet would simultaneously be increased two or three-fold in the first twenty-four hours of war—a "remarkable achievement," and "the greatest feat in naval policy since the days of Nelson."

Information upon this policy, at first meagre, was supplied by a Return issued by the Admiralty of ships affected by the redistribution of the Fleets. From this it appeared that twenty-seven ships were put into the llama class, retaining their armaments, but laid up in the charge of caretakers, thirty-six vessels were relegated to a class available for subsidiary purposes, eighty obsolete vessels were in a third class, and ten vessels were in a fourth class of guard, receiving and stationary ships. With regard to the llama class, as no expense was to be incurred on these ships for maintenance and repairs there must inevitably be deterioration, and certainly it was not possible to rely on their being made rapidly available in time of emergency. In this Return he could find nothing to justify the grandiloquent language used by the Prime Minister. Of the ninety ships struck off the list or sold a number had long been worthless, and could not be included in last year's policy. For instance, the "Royal Adelaide" was completed in 1828, the "Havannah" in 1811, the "Belvidera" in 1810, and the "Implacable" was so old that the Admiralty had no record of the date of her completion. So far as he could make out, only about half of the ninety vessels struck off could be attributed to the recent policy. Was it not absurd, then, to say that this great Admiralty achievement was without parallel since the days of Nelson. Again, as they knew, a large expenditure was incurred on several of these ships just before they were sent to the scrap-heap. On the "Porpoise" £31,000 was expended only three years before; on another vessel £9,000 was spent two years previously. Upon that policy he need not do more than allude to the statement of Sir W. White, late Chief Constructor to the Navy, and the two points upon which he pressed for explanation were: why so much expenditure was incurred for repairs for ships shortly afterwards removed from the effective list, and, secondly, how a distinction was made between ships of the same apparent class and value, some of which were laid up and others classed as useful for subsidiary purposes.

Let them contrast the actual results of the policy with the description of it given by the Prime Minister at Glasgow. Lord Lansdowne, speaking in the House of Lords, had stated that the policy of eliminating ships from the active list had produced a saving of £3,500,000. That was an entire delusion. There had been a saving of £3,500,000 on the Navy Estimates this year, but it had been due to reductions on new construction, on armaments, on repairs, and on stores. He was quite sure that Lord Lansdowne spoke in good faith, but it only showed he was under the delusion, fostered by the Prime Minister's language, that the saving had been effected by the elimination of these ships. But something must have been saved by the elimination of these ships, and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would tell them how much had been saved in past years and what saving might be anticipated in future years. They ought to know how much money had been realised by the sale of these old ships. He had hitherto applied unsuccessfully to the Admiralty for information on the point, and he was driven to the papers for such facts as he had acquired. He would ask whether it was true that the "Warspite," which was only seventeen years old and had cost £700,000, had been sold for £18,000, and that eighteen so-called obsolete ships, which cost £2,250,000 not very long ago, sold at the beginning of April for something less than £100,000. He desired also to know what was the number of men set free by the elimination of these ships. He asked a Question on that point the other day and was told that the complement of these ships' crews totalled 30,748, but it did not necessarily follow that that number of men had been set free. He had not been able to get accurate information on the point, but it seemed to him that one result had been to increase the number of men serving on shore or in harbour ships, and that more men had not been put on sea service. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would vouchsafe the Committee some further information on that point.

Did this new scheme offer any hope of their being able to increase the efficiency of the Navy? Sir William White had made a strong point on that, arguing, as he did, that the elimination of these ships meant a reduction of reserve forces which was regarded as dangerous. Some reassurances on that subject would be useful. Many of these small ships, although they would be of no use in the fighting line in a great battle, were useful in peace and war for the protection of British interests locally. What was the policy of the Government and the Admiralty with regard to the protection of commerce in time of war? According to all authorities that he was acquainted with, our commerce in time of war would be protected by this class of small ships. He was aware that the question of the protection of commerce was in a state of flux at the present time. Therefore, it was important to know the reason for the elimination of ships which many high authorities regarded as being especially useful for that purpose. He knew there was high naval authority for the proposition that in time of war in all probability, at any rate at first, our Navy would not trouble itself to defend commerce at all.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge) asked whether the hon. Member was at liberty to give his authority.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he was not at liberty, but he should not have made the statement without believing that he was justified in doing so. The theory was that the business of the Fleet in time of war was to seek the opposing fleet and knock it out of existence, and after that, but not before, the question of protecting commerce might be considered. He believed that His Majesty's Government were at that moment considering the propriety of going into a conference called by the President of the United States which had for its primary object and purpose the abolition of the capture and destruction of private property at sea. He desired to express his hearty sympathy with that proposal and his desire, to believe, though it was impossible to believe, that this elimination of ships might possibly be connected with it. At all events he hoped and trusted that the barbarous rule, as he regarded it, of the destruction of private property at sea of which we were the chief victims would be abolished; but so long as international law permitted it, we ought to consider our position before we sacrificed all these ships, on account of their special value in relation to the protection of commerce. In regard to specific questions, he would like to know from the Secretary to the Admiralty how the sea stores in those foreign stations that were being practically abandoned for the time had been disposed of.

Now he came to the general contents of the Vote. The First Lord, in his Memorandum, stated that the repairs of the Navy had all been overtaken now, and that in consequence it would not be necessary to send this work to private yards. He hoped that statement was well founded; but there were one or two passages in an important article by Sir William White in the July number of the *Nineteenth Century* on this very question that deserved the attention of the Secretary to the Admiralty. Sir William White said that—

> "This vigorous effort to effect necessary repairs of the Fleet was undoubtedly praiseworthy, but there was a want of thorough consideration and provision in framing the scheme, and no trustworthy estimate was made of the cost involved in its execution. Ships were sent for repairs to private firms which had not built them, and in some cases to firms which had little or no experience of building ships or engines for the Navy; while other and competent firms who had built ships and engines for the Navy, and who were well acquainted with Admiralty work, were left unemployed, and both time and cost were thus increased."

There was another statement in the article on the general subject of repairs which should be brought under the notice of the Committee. The amount put down this year for repairs was something under £3,000,000, a decrease of £500,000 on last year. But this was a delusive estimate. It was under existing conditions difficult to estimate beforehand the cost of repairs. On this point Sir William White wrote—

> "The diligent student can ascertain the first cost and date of completion for each existing combatant ship in the Navy and the cost of maintenance for each ship after completion . . . and so can form an opinion as to a reasonable allowance, in proportion to first cost, for subsequent cost of maintenance. In this manner—having regard to the value of armour, which does not sensibly deteriorate—one can arrive at a figure for the annual minimum amount which ought to be provided for the efficient maintenance of the existing Fleet. This method of investigation leads one to the conclusion that under present circumstances, for efficient maintenance of the Fleet and provision for a certain amount of reconstruction, an annual outlay of at least £4,000,000 sterling is requisite. As the costly battleships and cruisers now building come into service, and the capital value of the Fleet in commission grows, this amount for maintenance will require a corresponding increase, although more ships may be struck off the effective list during this period."

He thought that was a serious consideration, and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would give the Committee his views upon it.

As to new construction, he thought the Committee had a right to complain of the silence of the Admiralty on the subject. No information had been vouchsafed to them up to the present, but he thought that now, when the session was nearly over and when steps would shortly be taken to carry into effect the new shipbuilding programme, they were entitled to be told something about the proposals of the Admiralty. They had been told that a Committee of Designs had been appointed to assist the Director of Naval Construction, and he had asked to be supplied not only with the terms of reference to that Committee, but also with the Reports they sent in from time to time. Neither of his requests had been granted, and he understood the hon. Gentleman was not prepared to give the House the information. Well, he appealed to the majority to assist him in obtaining it. Surely there was nothing unreasonable in asking for it. An absolutely new scheme was being put forward this year. Under this Vote they were going to lay down one battleship, four armoured cruisers, five ocean-going destroyers, one ocean-going destroyer of an experimental type, twelve coastal destroyers, and eleven submarines, and in regard to the whole of this scheme they were absolutely without detailed information. They really ought—now the session was nearly over—to be told something about it. *Engineering* had openly divulged important particulars which had been denied to them by the Government. A month ago this paper gave some leading details about the new battleship, and stated that she was to be of twenty-one knots speed, that she would have an armament of ten 12-inch guns, a displacement of 18,000 tons, and turbine machinery. Was that a correct description of the new type of battleship? The same organ gave the speed of the four new cruisers at twenty-five knots, and that of the ocean-going destroyer as thirty-six knots. He wished to know from the representative of the Government whether these particulars were true or not, and would he supplement them by giving some further information. He noticed that this inspired author of the naval programme of the Government had nothing to say about the design of the submarines. He desired to take this opportunity of expressing his deep regret at the last great disaster on one of their submarines. The new type had been doubly unfortunate, and this was not the first disaster which had shocked the country. He sincerely hoped that would be the last. He thought that was an additional reason why they should be told more about the design of the new submarines, and how far the possibility of accidents would be avoided. He wished to know why this information had been communicated to the editor of *Engineering* a month before it was communicated to Parliament. Those were all fair Questions, to which he hoped an Answer would be given, It was an ingenious sort of article, because it did not profess to say anything about the principles which animated the Designs Committee, although it claimed an acquaintance with the views of Admiral Fisher and Mr. Watts. But whether the information given to this paper was official or not, they had a right to know why this paper was allowed to have it.

Then there was the question as to whether this large expenditure was justified or not. He wished to point out that the Opposition were not responsible for these colossal Estimates and that they had nothing to do with them. In deciding what the strength of the Navy should be they had to remember that one of the great Powers had now practically ceased to exist as a naval Power. Therefore, they had to count out Russia and count in Japan, and they had also to count in the United States. His point was that in the new state of naval affairs the old formulæ had ceased to have any effect. It was useless to talk about a two-Power or a three-Power standard now, and they wanted a new consideration of the whole problem. To replace worn-out ships and keep the Fleet in repair cost about £4,800,000 a year, and his point was that by that expenditure they could keep the Fleet at its present strength. They were spending this year upon new construction alone double that sum. That meant that at present they were not only maintaining the Fleet at its present strength but that they were adding to it year by year. He thought that Lord Lansdowne in what he had said had gone further than anyone in that House in supporting and countenancing the principle of a reduction in naval armaments.

With regard to the Colonies the right hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth and himself had several times urged upon the House the advisability of the Colonies bearing their proper share of the burden of maintaining the Imperial Navy, although they had not obtained much support upon either side of the House. The right hon. and gallant Member the other day led a deputation to the Prime Minister which urged that the Colonial Conference which was going to consider the fiscal question should be asked as a matter of primary consideration to consider the question of contributing towards the Imperial Navy. From the report he had read he was under the impression that the Prime Minister had assented to that demand, but, when he was questioned in the House he appeared to throw over that deputation, and declared that what he had said practically meant nothing at all.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said he thought that, in view of the statements which the hon. and learned Member for Dundee had made, it would be convenient to the Committee that he should reply at once upon the general question before the debate proceeded any further. The national and international considerations touched upon by the hon. Gentleman were very much in the minds of the Admiralty, but the hon. Gentleman would not expect him to go into them in detail. The hon. Gentleman had suggested that the Navy might be reduced.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON dissented.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said if they considered the whole question in its broad aspect they would see that the first thing they had to ask was what was the work the Navy had to do; had they sufficient ships to do it—modern ships such as alone should be supplied to the *personnel* this country possessed? If those new ships and the *personnel* were sufficient for the needs of the country, could it be anything but wasteful and bad economy to keep on ships, which, however useful when first built or even two or three years ago, were now superfluous? The policy of laying ships aside as having no great value for the immediate operation of war was not a policy that stood by itself, but was combined with the policy, to which the hon. Gentleman had not referred, of nucleus crews. It was only by taking from the active list all these ships that it had been possible to provide a *personnel* for the nucleus crews, and he thought the Committee would see that what had been said by the Prime Minister in that regard could not be taken as exaggerated if they would consider the importance of this great principle of providing nucleus crews. Under the old system ships were in reserve, and lay in the basins at the great ports. They were not manned at all. Crews were provided for them in reserve in war, but the *personnel* had before mobilisation no connection whatever with the ships. Under the present system these ships were in commission in reserve. That was no form of words.

They were in commission; and every modern efficient ship in the Navy fit to put in the first fighting line except such as were actually under repair in the yard was provided with a nucleus crew and ready to go into action at a few hours notice. That meant an enormous increase of efficiency, because, under the old system, when ships were mobilised for manœuvres, those vessels on which there had been trouble and breakdown had been those which had been in reserve and of which the *personnel* had no knowledge of the machinery and appliances on board. Under the present system the more important *personnel* of the ship—those who would be in prime charge of the appliances—were not only living on board, but taking out the ships frequently and exercising them. There was another incidental advantage in the system. It might very often happen in war that a ship would have to be fought and worked short-handed. They had never had any experience of that particular state of affairs; but now, by working these ships with nucleus crews, a large proportion of the Navy was gaining experience of working ships short-handed both in the matter of gun practice and machinery. All this involved an enormous gain in efficiency.

The hon. Gentleman had asked where was the increase of efficiency. There could be no comparison as to efficiency between the old system and the new, either in peace or war. Efficiency in this case could not be separated from economy. What possible relation could there be between the figures as to the cost now and last year? The real comparison must be between the expenditure of to-day, together with the efficiency of to-day, and what the expenditure and efficiency would have been to-day under the old conditions. It was quite clear that comparison could not be made in actual figures. No amount of expenditure within one year could have produced the same efficiency. Unless those vessels had been taken out of the first fighting line there would be no crews at all for carrying out the nucleus system. There was a great economy, but greater still was the efficiency. He could indicate many ways in which there had been actual economy. There was a very large saving of the expense of refitting these vessels. Had these vessels, which were now known as llamas, been refitted, modernised, and rearmed—and the hon. Gentleman was well aware the "Admiral' class could not have been considered efficient otherwise—the cost would have worked out to about £2,500,000. Had there been no reconstruction and rearmament, but simply necessary repairs and refitting, the cost would have been somewhere about £500,000. In addition to that there was the saving of the stores and coal which these ships would have required, of *personnel*, subsidiary expense, upkeep, etc. There had been a very large saving indeed compared to any sum which the House would have been asked to spend had they attempted to provide the nucleus crews in any other way. Those crews were a necessity if that great scheme was to be carried out; and he believed he was right in saying that the Committee approved of that scheme. Economy could not be divorced from efficiency. Either they might have kept things as they were and abandoned that valuable scheme or they might have kept the old ships and had nucleus crews to a certain extent. In that case there would have been an enormous additional expenditure. The hon. Member suggested that these vessels would have been of great value for the protection of commerce. So far as he was aware any proposals which might exist for attacks on our commerce would be by modern armoured cruisers, against which these vessels would be absolutely valueless. The result of employing those ships would simply be to lock up in them valuable *personnel*, which would not be available for more modern ships.

The hon. Member raised a very important point as to the protection of our commerce in war, and asked whether it was not the opinion of a high naval authority, which he did not specify, that in war our first policy would be to destroy the enemy's fleets, and only after that had been done to protect our commerce. Although he did not know who his high naval authority was, he could say that was not the view the Admiralty took.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he referred to Captain Mahan.

MR. PRETYMAN said he thought the hon. Member was confusing the relative importance and the question of time. No one would deny, if there was an alternative, and if the question arose whether they were to destroy the enemy's fleets or protect their commerce and attack his, there could only be one answer. That was what Captain Mahan said. If the question was, "Am I to destroy the enemy's fleet, or am I to protect my commerce," there could be only one answer, and that was that the enemy's fleet must be destroyed. The hon. Member was referring to a volume on a great French war in which Captain Mahan pointed out that the enormous losses suffered by the French were caused by the diversion to the protection of commerce of power that would have been better employed in fighting the enemy's fleet. No one who had studied naval strategy would agree that because there were two objects, one of which was infinitely the more important, therefore the other should be neglected and postponed. It happened that the protection of commerce was an interest infinitely more vital to us than it was to any other country; and, therefore, from the strategic point of view, our first object was so to dispose our forces as to destroy an enemy's fleet. But it did not follow that we should neglect the second object, which was to protect our commerce. The method in which the Admiralty had dealt with this problem was not to ignore the value of strategic policy, but to provide sufficient ships to do both these things. Last year he had said that the Admiralty had over and over again stated that the two-Power standard was not applicable to cruisers, for the simple reason that it had been recognised that we required this large additional number of armoured cruisers in order to supply the strategic requirements of the Fleet for seeking out the vessels of an enemy and to protect our commerce. That was the whole point; and he was sure that the Committee would accept it from him, without desiring that he should suggest the nature of the considerations and plans which dealt with this matter of commerce protection, that it had had and was having the very closest attention of the Admiralty.

The hon. Gentleman opposite had referred to the statement of the Prime Minister that the elimination of obsolete ships was "a courageous stroke of the pen." These words referred to the policy as a whole. He was perfectly prepared to give to any hon. Member who desired it the fullest figures and facts as to what any particular ship had fetched; but he felt that the Committee would rather that he should come down to the House prepared to defend the policy of the Admiralty and to deal with questions which had been raised upon it than that he should come prepared with sheets of figures which could perfectly easily be supplied to anyone who wished for them in answer to Questions.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said that his Question was what was the cost of the ships sold, including the amount spent in repairs, and the amount realised by the sales.

MR. PRETYMAN said he was perfectly prepared to give all those figures, but could not do so offhand; but he would point out that the cost of a ship when new bore no relation whatever to her value when sold. A ship when she was built was a fighting unit. When sold she was old iron, and what value remained in the ship as a fighting unit, the machinery and armament, had to be destroyed.

MR. J. H. LEWIS said the point of his Question was how much the ships originally cost and how much they realised.

MR. PRETYMAN said he would take care to furnish the hon. Member with the figures. But the hon. Member appeared to think that the disparity between the cost of a ship and the amount for which it sold indicated some kind of *laches* on the part of the Admiralty. The hon. Member referred to the case of the stores in South Africa as if there were some parallel. He was quite sure that hon. Members did not wish that these matters of naval debate should be made the subject of

Party recrimination. Their one desire was to secure the efficiency of the Navy, and to secure it as cheaply as possible, and not to find fault with one another except when efficiency and economy failed.

Reference had been made to an article by Sir William White, the late Director of Naval Construction. He yielded to no one in his admiration for Sir William White, whose work as a designer was known throughout the world; but when he was quoted as an unrivalled authority, not only on questions of design, but on the question of the value of ships as fighting units and on questions affecting the naval policy of the Admiralty, he could only say that he believed the superior officers in the Navy, who now occupied posts at the Admiralty, were as high, or even higher, authorities on questions of that kind. When Sir William White gave it as his opinion that the ships which had been laid aside might be of great value in time of war, he might say that the opinion of the high authorities he had referred to and the heads of the Navy was that these ships would not in normal circumstances have any value in war at all. It was conceivable that there might be a condition of affairs in which we arrived at the point when there would be no ship of the enemy's abroad from which these ships would incur danger. They might then attack commerce; but was it seriously suggested that the equipment of these ships should be maintained when they were only available for that particular purpose? He was quite sure that if Sir William White had been at the Admiralty and had had these considerations in his mind, he would have been of the same mind as those at the Admiralty.

He had been asked why, not only the reference to, but the Reports of the Designs Committee had not been laid before the House. He submitted that to attempt to treat the question of designs as a purely academic one, and as one which could be discussed apart from those of strategy and policy and naval requirements was an entire misapprehension, and if mistakes had been made in the past, he believed it had been due to that misapprehension. Hon. Members in that House, and among them the hon. Gentleman who used to represent Gateshead, had over and over again laid down that our ships were under-gunned. If some were, he believed the reason was that in some of these ships the question of design had not been considered sufficiently from the point of view of naval strategy; and he ventured to suggest that the proper process of designing a ship was, in the first place, that the heads of the Navy, the Commanders-in-Chief, and the Lords of the Admiralty should be called together and should consider from their standpoint what was required for the purposes of war, and when that had been done as a first step, then the matter should be referred to a Designs Committee or to the Director of Naval Construction. If the Admiralty now recognised the closeness of relationship between design and strategy, it followed that the details of design could no longer be brought down from year to year and laid before the Committee. The hon. Member appealed to Members on the Ministerial side in the name of the ancient rights of the House. With equal confidence he would appeal to hon. Members on the Opposition side, putting it to them whether they would insist on their ancient rights if it were shown to them that they were against the interests of the nation. He appealed to hon. Gentlemen to allow him to refrain from giving the particulars asked, because these questions of design were so intimately connected with strategy. Although statements which were unauthorised statements, which were correct in some particulars and were incorrect in others, had appeared in print, the Committee would agree that a statement appearing in any newspaper, however important, was totally different from a statement made on behalf of the Admiralty across the floor of the House. He reminded the Committee of another fact too often forgotten—that they were now building ships in competition, not with the ships they knew of to-day, but with the ships that would be their contemporaries, which were not only not completed but not on the stocks, but whose designs were in the drawers of foreign nations. This being so, clearly that nation had the advantage which was first able to obtain the designs and the plans of other nations in competition with which they were building. We had, perhaps, been too often in the habit of giving that advantage away, and he would ask the Committee to believe that he was not withholding anything that ought not to be withheld. The designs were ready, and there must be a moment when these designs would become known, but perhaps never a moment when they would all become known. He hoped he would have the acquiescence in the view of the Board of Admiralty of the hon. Member for Dundee himself.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON was understood to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the reports in the engineering papers were correct. The Admiralty, he added, always laid a statement before the House.

Mr. PRETYMAN said that was exactly what he had stated and what he was asking the Committee to allow him to pass over for the reasons he had given. He relied on the Committee's support. He assured the Committee it would be as great a pleasure for him to state the particulars as it would be to them to hear them, but it was better in the interests of the nation to leave them unstated.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) thought it was not possible for any Member to resist the reason given for not making the usual statement with regard to designs, but he hoped they were not going to have another case of making mystery where it was impossible to keep things secret. A general statement to that Committee was of slight importance by the side of the technical details which appeared in the engineering newspapers and those which had already appeared in regard to new vessels, and which had been sent round to all the countries in the world and had been seen by naval attachés. These would be assumed to be correct, and it soon leaked out from the dockyards whether they were substantially accurate in their main lines. He should have thought that information as to the large item of general cost might have been safely given to the Committee.

Mr. PRETYMAN said the cost of the new battleship would be about £1,500,000.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE said the figure named was less than the figure quoted in the engineering newspapers, and showed that there had been some exaggeration in regard to the size and character of the new ship. He thought there was no doubt that the number of 12-inch guns would be enormously increased; and he was glad to hear that the Admiralty anticipated that in this new battleship and in the new cruisers we might be leading rather than following the naval world, as had been too often the case in the past. While congratulating the Board of Admiralty on their spokesman in this House, he condemned the suddenness of the curves which the Board had executed, and said the Prime Minister's speech regarding the courageous stroke of the pen was one of which the Minister ought to be a little ashamed. Lord Lansdowne repeated the epithet "courageous" in the statement that the Naval Estimates showed a saving of £3,500,000 owing to the courageous scheme of Lord Selborne relating to the obsolete warships, which were costing the nation a great deal of money and doing nothing to promote efficiency. It was a pity that the Prime Minister at Glasgow and the Leader of the House of Lords should make a statement so flashy and misleading. The Government used the figures as to the character of the ships in divers fashions according to the reasons for using them. In one list fifty-three first-class battleships appeared two of which appeared in the Return of ships not effective for fighting purposes. That Return had been largely used for argument which could not be justified. He was not satisfied that farseeing wisdom had been evinced by the sudden changes of the last two years, and he understood the views of the hon. Member for Dundee as to commercial protection. With regard to the third-class cruisers, some of which were brand-new ships, he reminded the Committee that at present there was a powerful Commission to which the consideration of the food supply of the people had been referred. It did not seem to him wise, having built ships of this class within the last two or three years and spent enormous sums of money in repairing them, to suddenly strike them off the effective list before the

Report of the Royal Commission had been received. The policy adopted might be perfectly sound; but the suddenness of the change without waiting for the Report of the Royal Commission had thrown a certain amount of doubt on the continuity of he policy of the Admiralty.

Then as regarded construction, for instance, the boilerings of the Fleet showed a lack of wisdom on the part of the Admiralty. The American and German Governments had used both the cylinder boilers and the water tank boilers together. The American Government abandoned the mixed system as a failure, and this country then adopted it. The mixed system was of doubtful value; and its adoption showed that this country was following other countries, whereas it should be at the top of the tree in the application of science to Navy matters. Then as regarded submarines, the deplorable accidents were more numerous in proportion to numbers than in France. They must expect accidents in such a service, but there should not be such a large proportion. The Admiralty had refused to give the Committee information on the subject; indeed, the Engineering Supplement of *The Times* contained more information than was given by the Admiralty. It would have been better if the Admiralty had reassured the service and the public and had given a larger amount of information on the question of submarines. In the course of the present year a new policy had been adopted which bore on the question of submarine construction. The Admiralty took over from the Army the water defence of certain ports such as Berehaven. He would ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty intended to defend these ports by means of submarines. If so, it was clear from the information published in France, and also by Sir William White, that a new class of submarine would have to be constructed for that purpose. The tendency was to make the submarine larger and larger for defensive purposes; but that was not the view taken by the French, who were masters of the art. The Admiralty attempted to combine sea-going properties and defensive properties in the same boat; but if the submarines were to be used by the Admiralty to defend ports, smaller ships would have to be built. He considered it would be well for the Admiralty to take the House of Commons more into their confidence in this matter. It was not a matter in which secrecy could be kept from the world as regarded the size of the vessels and their number; although there might be secrets when they were submerged. The Admiralty should state whether they considered that the larger boats were capable of a double use. The new departure was so great that it deserved the careful consideration of the House of Commons.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said it was essential that the naval policy of the country should be persistent and consistent. That was apparent to every person who had a reasonable conception of the requirements for the defence of the Empire. He deprecated exaggerated or flowery language in dealing with the actions of the Admiralty. In regard to submarines, it should be remembered that they could not attack a port; and the Admiralty should be extremely cautious in respect of the work, formerly discharged by the Army, they had undertaken in connection with the defence of places. If there were no ships in a port, why should submarines enter it? They could not attack works or docks; and he desired to protest against any hasty action of the Admiralty in the development of this submarine policy. The Prime Minister in his recent speech could only touch the fringe of the question. The papers appeared to be under the impression that he meant that there was no danger of invasion if only there were a sufficient number of submarines and torpedo-boats. Submarines were, however, primarily necessary to a weak naval Power, they being purely defensive weapons. When any new great invention was brought into being and caught the public enthusiasm, experiments had to be tried. Therefore the Admiralty picked out the best coming officers, the young men with the ablest brain they could find, to man, and experiment with these vessels, and those men really became a cult. Their enthusiasm for the submarine became such an influence as to affect the policy of the Admiralty. He therefore ventured to warn the hon. Gentleman and the representative of the Admiralty that this thing might be pushed too far. The true naval policy should be the line-of-battle power, and by the amount that was spent upon submarines to that extent was the battle power limited. Nobody could deny that the experience of the Japanese War had shown most emphatically, what all naval history taught, that it was the line-of-battle ships which determined maritime wars and that the torpedo-boats, which were at one time supposed to have superseded the battleships, were a very necessary but subsidiary instrument to the line-of-battle power.

He did not agree with the hon. Member for Dundee that the time had come for the reduction of naval armaments owing to the disappearance of the Russian Fleet. On the contrary, he saw everything warning this nation and our Empire to keep its naval strength up to a standard sufficient to meet all reasonable possible contingencies. He had always protested against that rule-of-thumb standard, the two-Power standard. A maritime Power in another hemisphere had had a great trial and had given an illustration of what awaited unprepared naval nations. There was no such thing now as a temporary defeat at sea of a nation's fleet. The defeat was final; there was no recovery; no means of remedying a reverse. The real question, and it was coming very near, was who was going to be master in the Pacific? The United States intended that she should be, and she had given every sign of it by the extraordinary increase of naval power in which she was engaged. Then there was Japan, both Powers having arsenals and power of naval production and maintenance in that hemisphere. In the not distant future we might have questions arising in the Pacific, the policies of Japan, the United States, and Great Britain coming into conflict. Were we sufficiently prepared for such questions? Could we, by applying this rule-of-thumb standard at home, keep pace with what was going on in another hemisphere, with our power of production and maintenance of ships only in this hemisphere? He did not think so, and that being so, what were we doing to prepare for that time, when our interest and those of either or both of these other Powers in the Pacific did not accord? All welcomed the Japanese alliance, but nobody could believe that that alliance would last for ever. We all dreaded a rupture with the United States, but ruptures did take place and we must be prepared for them. Therefore, the real question was who was going to rule the Pacific, because whoever ruled the Pacific one day would rule the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic the next. He saw with regret that no preparation on our part had been begun to strengthen our power of construction and maintenance in the Pacific.

With regard to the nucleus crews, he had understood his hon. friend to say that unless we had sold these ships and expunged a large part of what were called the llama class, we could not have the nucleus crews. He understood that that was the root of the nucleus - crew system, and it therefore came to this, that there was not enough *personnel* to keep afloat as the Fleet was then. Another reason the hon. Gentleman gave was economy. If the barracks were full, if nucleus crews were wanted, why were they not taken from the barracks? The main point was that it was not considered by the Admiralty that these vessels could be useful in time of war, and that the money could perhaps be applied more usefully. That being so, had the Admiralty abandoned their policy of subsidising the mercantile marine? Vessels built for war, armed for war, and prepared for war, were sold off because they could not stand against armoured cruisers, whilst the Estimates still bore a charge of thousands of pounds for subsidies to certain companies in order that we might have a call on their ships, which could not stand up against the armoured cruiser.

MR. PRETYMAN said it was an old agreement.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB asked was that policy abandoned, and, if so, why was it there was such a heavy charge on the Estimates?

MR. PRETYMAN said the agreement had to continue till it expired.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said there was one word he would like to say with regard to the Colonies. Was anything being done to bring home to the minds of our fellow-subjects in Canada and Australia the fact that this country could not go on protecting the whole of the British interests in both hemispheres. The interest of the Colonies was greater in the other hemisphere than that of the mother country. Was anything being done to wake up those colonies in the Pacific with large seaboards to their danger, and to their duty and responsibility to co-operate and to share the burdens of preparations, so as to secure the Empire in war a free sea?

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) said the last Question put by the hon. and gallant Member as to contributions from the Colonies was certainly a live one, although he did not attach much importance to that put previously, as to who was going to rule the Pacific. The hon. and gallant Member had told them the time might come when we should fall out with the United States, but he thought the country was not at the present time in a condition of mind to regard such a statement with much alarm. They were told that a new policy was being pursued now, and the retort could be made that so long as they continued to pursue the old policy money was, on the admission of the Admiralty to-day, being wasted. Some of them belonged to the school of economy, but they all, he hoped, worked harmoniously as regarded the naval programme. They accepted the new ideas of the Admiralty, and, as far as he had been able to give them consideration, he believed they would be advantageous, leading not only to the saving of money but to increased efficiency.

He commented upon the inconsistency of the Admiralty in the fact that whereas last year they spoke of the necessity of sending ships to private yards for repair, this year they said the necessity no longer remained; that the first business of the Royal Dockyards was to keep the Fleet in repair, and that they had a magnificent asset in the private yards, where new construction could certainly be as cheaply executed as in the Royal Dockyards. The hon. Member disputed this contention. He pointed out that a distinguished First Lord of the Admiralty in the past, the noble Lord the Member for Ealing, said it had never been shown that construction could be carried on more cheaply in private yards than in Government establishments, and that the existing Director of Dockyards, in the course of an interesting speech recently, repudiated altogether the suggestion that ships built in Government yards were more expensive than those built in private yards. All the figures that appeared with regard to this matter in the official publications were founded on the estimated cost, but that was no guide. What they wanted to know was the actual cost, and that could only be ascertained when the ship had been built and paid for. He had the prices of the ships of one class, the "Duncan" class, some of which were built in Government, and some in private dockyards, and he found from them that in the case of the "Montagu" which was built at Devonport, the estimate was £46,000 more than that ship actually cost, the actual amount being £979,530; whereas the "Cornwallis," built in a private yard, cost £1,029,000, or £46,000 more than the estimate. That was the case all through. In the Government dockyards the vessels were produced at less than the estimate, whilst in private yards the estimates were always exceeded. He contended that construction was not more cheap in private yards than in Government yards, and asked the hon. Gentleman to consent to a Return being made of all the ships built during the last ten years, with the actual cost and the estimated cost.

MR. PRETYMAN said he saw no objection.

MR. KEARLEY said he also thought the hon. Gentleman had made a mistake as to the time expended in building. He (Mr. Kearley) contended that the rate of construction was more expeditious in the Royal than in the private dockyards.

This brought him to the effect this policy had produced upon the various dockyards, not merely in Devonport but in other parts of the country. Of course a large number of discharges had been necessitated in consequence of a reduction in the Navy Estimates. Nobody could argue that if there was a reduction of expenditure the *personnel* could be maintained at its former high standard. They were entitled to ask that some consideration should be shown to the circumstances in which these employees now found themselves. He emphasised this by a local reference. Plymouth, he said, brought forward a scheme for the development of the mercantile interest of the Catwater, and it would have been of the greatest possible benefit, but the Admiralty killed it, refusing to give it recognition, and the scheme was abandoned. These people were dependent upon Government employment, which was the only employment available in the neighbourhood, and the methods which had been adopted lately in regard to the discharging of the men was contrary to a definite pledge given by the Secretary to the Admiralty in the House, and they were very hard and harsh. The hon. Gentleman gave an absolute pledge that the situation should be eased as much as possible by limiting the number of weekly discharges to twenty-five. To his surprise the number of discharges had gone on increasing every week, and last week it reached ninety-two. What was to become of those workmen who had been in the employ of the Government for twelve or fourteen years? Did the Government contemplate with satisfaction the fact that they were emigrating? No less than forty-three went last week to the United States. It appeared that the Admiralty had a very proper contract with apprentices under which they were guaranteed two years work at the end of their apprenticeship. Nobody would object to that. To ensure the fulfilment of that contract very harsh methods had been adopted. Some of the gangs of men were highly specialised on account of their skill. Naturally these men were entrusted with the education and instruction of the apprentices. Under a recent order matured experienced workmen had to go in order to fulfil this contract with the apprentices. He hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would inquire whether some improvement could not be immediately made in regard to the method of discharging these men. He also hoped that this policy of taking away work from the Government dockyards would not be persisted in.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth) said he associated himself with what the hon. Member for Devonport had said in regard to the Government dockyards. He was afraid it would not be much use detaining the Committee with an appeal upon this subject, because the First Lord of the Admiralty had recently received a deputation on the subject and had been good enough to hear the views on this question, therefore it would not perhaps be fair to repeat what was said upon that occasion. He could not help, however, taking this opportunity of pointing out what a very serious matter this was, because steps had been taken which amounted to a public calamity in a place like Portsmouth. In Portsmouth there were no flourishing industries, and, rightly or wrongly, the inhabitants considered that it was partly due to the Admiralty that they were limited in their opportunities of developing their local resources. The workers in the dockyards formed a considerable proportion of the population, and when they were out of work it put them into a very grave position because they had very limited alternatives and very few resources to fall back upon. The situation was made rather worse by the fact that of late years the present Secretary of State for War on more than one occasion had stated that there was no prospect of this falling off of work. He did not blame the right hon. Gentleman for saying that, but it had turned out to be a false security and it had come all the more as a shock to those who had to suffer. He knew that the answer of the Admiralty was that they were only responsible for the administration of the naval policy and for the expenditure of public money, and if a policy was approved by Parliament which necessitated a reduction of work in the Government dockyards they had no alternative but to reduce the number of those employed. If it was decided to do this from motives of economy the Government would not be justified in the circumstances in considering the claims of any particular town. From a public point of view that was so, but this policy fell with singular hardship on towns like Portsmouth. He wished to make a protest against this, because the Board of Admiralty had gone on increasing employment in Portsmouth dockyard and had held out hopes that such employment would continue, and now, unfortunately, they found themselves in the position of having to reduce the number of persons employed. It would surely have been wiser to have kept employment there as far as possible in such moderation that the probability would have been in the direction of increasing instead of reducing it. This was also an argument for making the establishments of those dockyards as far as possible permanent in the sense that they should have more men on the establishment and fewer hired men. It was the large number of hired men who were likely to suffer at a time like this.

He should be glad if his hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty would say exactly what was the policy with regard to pensioners in the dockyards. He did not say that the policy now being adopted was wrong, because he did not quite understand what it was, but it seemed rather curious that the Government were dismissing their pensioners whilst private firms were being urged to employ them. He also wished to know why the Metropolitan Police were employed in the Government dockyards, because he should have thought it would have been more economical to do without them. Perhaps the Secretary to the Admiralty could also tell them what was happening in regard to Wei-haï-Wei, where he noticed that this year there was a small increase in the expenditure. As to the question of boilers, he did not know whether the Secretary to the Admiralty would think it wise or necessary to tell the Committee what was the intention of the Admiralty in future. He himself was of opinion that the Belleville boilers were the best. If the figures which he had were correct, it appeared that on the trials the consumption of coal was less on vessels fitted with the Belleville boilers than on those fitted with the Babcock and Yarrow boilers. With the Belleville boilers it was 1·95 ℔s. per 1 h.p. per hour; with the Babcock boilers 2·02 ℔s., and the Yarrow boilers 2·04 ℔s. This, supposing ships to steam at 10,000 h.p. for a week, meant a saving of 84 tons of coal with a Belleville —a matter of the utmost importance. The real point, however, was that whereas Bellevilles, if damaged in action, could be easily repaired by screwing in new tubes, the Babcock and Yarrow boilers could not, but had practically to be taken to pieces in a dockyard. It was a great advantage to have ships fitted with boilers which, in the event of a breakdown, could be easily repaired.

Referring to the policy of striking ships off the active list he said that many of those who had not the advantage of expert advice were inclined to hesitate in expressing an opinion as to whether this was a wise policy. There were some ships which he imagined were still of some use and could be utilised for certain purposes in time of war. He had recently seen a number of ships lying off Spithead, and he confessed that they did not make a very glorious show. One was more inclined to think that they were fit for the scrap-heap. When he compared the ships which had been struck off the list this year to similar ships in foreign navies he thought some reason should be stated for the action of the Admiralty in this connection. He instanced the "Arethusa" as having been struck off our list while French, German, Italian, and Japanese ships, similar in size, speed, tonnage, and guns were retained in the active lists. He always thought it important on these occasions to elicit as much information as possible, because there was a tendency now-a-days to trust to the Press for naval news. A great portion of the Press catered for the hysterical public, and therefore these papers continued to wash our dirty linen in public, quite regardless whether our linen wanted washing or not.

He had sometimes seen statements about the Navy in the Press which were calculated to cause a very unpleasant impression at home, and an entirely erroneous impression abroad, and if they could get these allegations confirmed or refuted it would be satisfactory, and therefore he was sure that his hon. friend would not complain that these Questions were either unnecessary or irrelevant. He had seen it stated in a naval paper that the nucleus crews who were lately sent out for trial gave unsatisfactory results. It was stated that they were inefficient. It would be satisfactory if the hon. Gentleman would state what he knew about this matter. He ended, as he began, by making as strong an appeal as a representative of a dockyard town could do to the Admiralty not to undo what had been done, for it was too late to ask that, but to make every effort to avoid the recurrence of the hardship to workpeople which recent changes had involved.

Mr. PHILIPPS (Pembrokeshire) wished to press upon the Secretary of the Admiralty the necessity of hesitating to give work to private yards in preference to their own yards. Very severe hardship had been occasioned by the dismissals that had been going on. They disorganised the labour market in a wide district and caused trouble to other classes as well. He did not intend to deplore the fact that the Government were able to make a reduction in the Shipbuilding Vote. He thought they should all rejoice at it, and that thereby the Admiralty were doing their best to assist in the peace of the world. He did feel strongly that when the Government took men into their employ they should, whenever they had work to do, give it to the towns where there were dockyards and not to private yards which could get plenty of work from other people. Probably when the present war between Russia and Japan was over both these nations would give out fresh orders which would come to yards in this country. If the orders went to Germany other orders which would have gone to Germany would come here. It was not at all likely that private yards would suffer from want of work for many years to come. Pembroke was a little town almost absolutely dependent on Government work, and burdens had been put on it by the Government. The local authority had been absolutely forced to provide an expensive water supply which would have been absolutely unnecessary but for the existence of the Government dockyard. He associated himself with the hon. Members who had asked the Government to do all they possibly could to provide employment for the people in their own dockyards.

*Mr. DUKE (Plymouth) said he did not think that anyone who knew the dockyard towns would dispute that the Government dockyard administration had been characterised in connection with recent discharges by want of method and forethought. No private employer who had great establishments such as those the Admiralty had, would have felt himself morally justified in treating the people under his control in the manner that the Admiralty had treated the dockyard population. He failed to comprehend the meaning of such an absolute breach of the understanding that was arrived at when this question was before the House two or three months ago. They were then assured that there would be a regular and moderate discharge until the necessity for the discharges—which they all recognised—had been satisfied. No one representing a dockyard constituency could expect the affairs of this country to be regulated solely in the dockyard interests, but the dockyard communities were entitled to expect that the Admiralty would behave with the same consideration that was expected from private employers. At the present time a state of panic was being created among the dockyard population. There were recent discharges—which must have been perfectly well foreseen—of men of good character and skill, and who had been a long time in the dockyard, at a week's notice to make room for a great batch of apprentices, who had completed their service as apprentices, and at the same time new apprentices had been taken on to the extent of between 125 or 150. No doubt it was necessary under the old system that a great batch of apprentices should be periodically taken on, but while the Admiralty was carrying out this new policy of wholesale discharges it was at the same time continuing the old policy of taking on new apprentices by wholesale. Men were being displaced without any possibility of finding employment in the West of England, or even in this country.

The community, part of which he represented, wanted to know the meaning of what was being done, and how far it was to go. He submitted that such a community was entitled to know what the department of the Admiralty which controlled the dockyards had in view. What would be the extent of the discharges? By what instalments would they be carried out, and what would be the strength of the establishment when they ceased? He did not lose sight of the fact that at Devonport, at the present time, twice as many men were employed as were there under the old administration, but it was no satisfaction to the great body of people gathered together there, to be told that they were twice as many as the numbers of ten or twelve years ago, and to live in the daily expectation of the increasing batches of discharges, which destroyed the ordinary balance of civil life in the community. There was no sort of intimation as to how far the discharges were to go and what was to be the end of it. Great alarm was accordingly caused, and he therefore hoped his hon. friend would state to what extent the discharges were to go. The responsibility rested upon the Admiralty, as it rested upon all employers, of having consideration to the population they gathered together.

This business had been complicated—almost wantonly complicated—by the circulation of statements which purported to show that the Government were embarking on a policy not only of reducing the establishment but also of reducing the class of employment in the dockyards. Had the Government any intention of that sort? The Government had spent £4,000,000 or £5,000,000 upon new dockyard works at Devonport. Was it intended to use the docks, and slips, and basins there? It was rumoured that this expenditure was a great mistake, and that the Government might cease to use their dockyards for the construction of new ships. Having regard to the fact that the Government had spent millions on the dockyards, which had been a great source of security in time of war, and of efficiency in time of peace, and that the Government had restricted the development of dockyard towns in other directions, it was a matter of importance to have some definite information as to their intentions. The community which he represented viewed with great concern the want of method in the course which the Admiralty had taken, and the absence of a clear statement of settled policy. If that state of things continued much longer the doubt would arise whether some reformer from the War Office had not strayed into the Admiralty.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said that he had intended to say something in behalf of economy, but he was bound to say, in fairness, that the tendency of recent speeches, on both sides of the House, was not in the direction of economy. He quite sympathised with those who expressed the feeling of the men who were under discharge. But, on behalf of the general taxpayers of the country, he would put in a single word that the administrative powers at the Admiralty should do their work efficiently and with economy. The Secretary to the Admiralty had, in his speech, used a phrase which he had employed before, about the necessity of a wide horizon; but that day he coupled it with the saying that he wanted to have a wide horizon and full information. What the Committee wanted was to get some fuller information as to the policy and the details of the new administration at the Admiralty. He joined with his hon. friends in protesting at the way in which this new Admiralty scheme was laid before the country in November last, and the way in which it had been put before the country since. He objected to the ecstatic and extravagant language used by the Prime Minister in his speech at Glasgow in January. He thought that language was not substantiated by the hon. Gentleman who represented the Admiralty. But it was used in almost exactly the same form by the Leader of the Government in the House of Lords. The Government claimed for themselves that by this new scheme, published on November 7th, they were introducing a new reform of a wide-reaching character which was to entail, as one of its consequences, a large and permanent reduction in the expenditure on the Navy. He ventured to say that, in so far as he had been able to examine into the matter, he questioned whether there would really be any real reduction in the expenditure on the Navy of a permanent character.

Earlier in the session the Secretary to the Admiralty spoke of the number of ships which had been knocked off the effective list, or what was also called the fighting line. They had some reason to complain that in the Prime Minister's speech at Glasgow, in other speeches, and in Lord Selborne's Memorandum, great point was made of striking out a large number of ships from the fighting line, and that a great variety of figures had been given. They were told that the number of ships so struck off was 130, then 117, then 60, then 88, and then 72. The effect of that great variety of figures again showed how unsubstantial was the real foundation for the plea put forward that this measure was great and far-reaching. If the Admiralty really believed that this striking off of ships from the effective list was a novel and far-reaching reform, it was their duty to lay before the House of Commons the details of the ships, in their various categories, struck off from the effective list. But that was what they did not do. When the hon. Member for Dundee asked for a Return, and when a Return was given and they complained that that Return was not complete, the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty turned round and said that the Admiralty gave the Return asked for. That was not fair. If this scheme was brought forward on the responsibility of the Government, and if they took credit for it in the country and in the House, they ought to see that the House was fully informed on the subject. He could understand the striking off of the intermediate or llama class of comparatively small fighting power. He might say in passing that the list purposed to be the same as in the Dockyard Expense Account; but there were certain ships included in that account which were not included in the Return in the White Paper. The House and those who heard or read the Prime Minister's speech at Glasgow, undoubtedly understood, when the right hon. Gentleman spoke of the "courageous stroke of the pen," that they were to remove from the effective list of the ships of the Navy those which were no longer of use for the purposes of war. But they did not expect to find in this long list a number of antiquated ships, coal hulks, and a variety of vessels which had already been condemned in ordinary course to go to the scrap-heap. In class 2 A, ships available for the purposes of war, there were no less than seven which the hon. Gentleman himself, in answer to a Question put to him on March 13th, characterised as ships unsuited for service and which had been ordered to be sold. These ships were in two different categories and there ought to be a clear statement on the subject in order that the Committee might know where they stood.

Two points were raised in the discussion. One was whether it was wise to suddenly give the Admiralty such a free hand to cut out such a number of third-class cruisers. His own opinion on the subject would be of small value; but there was considerable difference of opinion both inside and outside the House among those whose opinion was of value. In adopting that policy the Admiralty were running counter to the policy of France, of Germany, and of Japan and other Powers who retained on their active lists vessels not on the active list of this country. Only a few years ago money was being spent on these very ships; and the Committee ought to be given some further information as to the ground on which the decision of the Admiralty was arrived at. Then there was the question of the middle class—I. B. The Secretary to the Admiralty did not give any reason for including the ships which were put into that class. They were supposed to be still possibly available for combatant purposes in time of war; yet they were sent to the Forth and the

Tyne, and put into the hands of caretakers, where it was admitted they would deteriorate. The Secretary to the Admiralty stated in March last that they could be put into an effective state of repair in three months. This policy was quite inconsistent with the policy enunciated in Lord Selborne's Memorandum, and would not result in diminishing the number of men if nucleus crews were retained. He ventured to state that this scheme did not point to any permanent economy. The Secretary to the Admiralty did not answer the Question of his hon. friend the Member for Dundee, who asked what number of men would be made available for the ships in class I. B. Surely that was a Question which should be answered. The figures in the White Paper did not answer that Question, because they were only an estimate of the number that might be required under certain conditions.

As regarded construction and repairs, it was impossible not to see that the new programme this year did not represent what would be the permanent average in future years. Only one battleship was included this year, and it was obvious that the programme was an exceptional one. He agreed with the Secretary to the Admiralty that it would be imprudent to give the character of the new ships; but he might tell the Committee something regarding their cost. They were informed by his hon. friend the Member for Dundee and other hon. Members that the new armoured cruisers were to be of a new and more powerful type. That would in all probability mean increased cost; and he should like to know what the expenditure on these cruisers would probably be. The House of Commons would not properly discharge its duty unless it pressed Ministers for information on these subjects. They did not want to interfere with the Admiralty regarding the character of the ships; but they should be informed regarding the general lines of policy, and particularly in reference to the financial policy that would be adopted. Then as to repairs, the figures were again exceptional. They were not, however, put before the House of Commons or the Public Accounts Committee as exceptional. With regard to the Question of the hon. Member for Dundee, what Answer was there to that? The hon. Gentleman had quoted authority on this subject as to the capital value of the Navy at the present moment, and as to what had been the annual amount in past years required for repairs. That amount was something like £4,000,000 per annum. This year it was a little over £2,000,000, and yet our Fleet was still growing in numbers and cost. How could they possibly say, therefore, that an annual expenditure of £2,000,000 would be sufficient both this year and in the future for repairs, when in the past it had averaged £4,000,000? They were entitled to have some information on this point. His last Question to the hon. Gentleman was, could he now tell the Committee what he was going to spend in the coming year on naval works so that the Committee might know what the total amount was that we were spending on our naval policy? The information had hitherto been given at an earlier date and they were, he submitted, entitled to have it now, as this was the last opportunity they would have for discussing the general naval expenditure.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said this Vote dictated the amount and importance of every other Vote in the Naval Estimates, and it disclosed to a large extent the naval policy adopted by the Government. He agreed that the disquiet in the public mind arose not so much from the change in naval policy as from the indication of what appeared to be an entire breach of continuity adopted with extraordinary suddenness and without full consideration. The Board of Admiralty was a very strange body, and in the past had resisted everything in the way of progress. It resisted steam; it resisted the screw; it resisted the adoption of breach-loading guns; and it resisted new pattern boilers. It always gave way in the end and then usually launched into violent change and very large expenditure. In this instance of the wholesale condemnation of ships, the change in the Admiralty seemed not only sudden but intemperate. By many persons the change had been attributed to the influence of the First Sea Lord, who, indeed, if he read aright the definition of his duties, seemed to have superseded and destroyed the Board of Admiralty itself. He did not question the principle that the Navy should consist of efficient ships; the principle was sound but it had been carried so far, and adopted so suddenly, that it was to be feared that efficient ships had been "scrapped" with non-efficients, and that there had been too much suddenness and thoroughness in the adoption of this policy. Some information was required as to the operation of the principle in regard to steamship subsidies. The Admiralty themselves might have noticed that as to these there were ships for which they still paid a large sum of money; he alluded to the Cunarders, which ought to be "scrapped" with the others. We financed the Cunard Company to the extent of £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 for liners and subsidies, and he was convinced that the idea which led the Government to adopt this policy was a mistaken one, and that if the Government had had the same control of these ships as they had of their own they, too, would have gone to the scrap-heap.

Naval construction depended largely on the general policy of the country, because this being a naval nation any policy which had to be carried out must be carried out by the Navy. There were evidences that a change had come over that policy. For centuries it had been the maintenance of a strong Navy for the protection of our trade and of our Colonies for the sake of trade. All our great wars, from those of Marlborough to those of Napoleon, were fought for no other cause than the protection of our trade. But it now almost seemed that our notion was to fight not for trade but for conquest. If that was so, no bounds could be put to our expenditure. For the conqueror, however modestly he began, always at last sought universal conquest. That was true of every conqueror from Cryus to Napoleon. There was at anyrate a great change in naval strategical dispositions, which seemed to imply much. By the practical abandonment of stations in the North Atlantic and the Pacific he surmised that the Government were relying upon a good understanding with the United States and upon our alliance with Japan, and he would not say they were wrong, and certainly he could not complain of steps taken to strengthen our position in the North Sea; it was the immediate point to which the naval eye should be directed and we might, at no distant time, have to fight there for an ally. With regard to the character of our ships the lessons of history taught that fighting at sea must be determined by line-of-battle ships—that was to say, the strongest and stoutest ships that could hit the hardest and take the hardest hitting themselves that the wit of man could devise. That was the ship which in the past and in the present determined the battle and which would determine it in time to come. Ships and guns were the important things, and yet it seemed to him that the Admiralty were always going mad over something else. Every day the possibility of using the ram was diminished, because the distance at which an action was begun would be greatly increased, yet this useless weapon was fitted to every new ship by the Admiralty. He hoped that the ram, which experience had proved was a danger to our own vessels, would be abolished. Torpedo boat destroyers might be of considerable use, but they had great limitations. The conditions were extremely favourable for them in the battle of Tsu-shima, but we did not know whether they were of much use to the Japanese. The battleships practically decided the action. They were told that when the Japanese had their enemy beaten, and not till then, they let loose their torpedo craft to destroy the enemy's ships. If Admiral Togo did that he ventured to think that that was one point upon which criticism might be directed against him, because when once he had got the enemy beaten his object should have been rather to capture the enemy's ships than to destroy them. Such a course gave the victor a double advantage; in the first place it gave him a large number of officers and men for the purposes of exchange, and secondly it gave him the ships, and if it turned out that Admiral Togo did take the course which it was said he did, then it might have to be held that even that great captain had been guilty of an error of judgment.

He thought the Admiralty had made a serious mistake in largely increasing the number of submarines. They were engines which had to be used in conditions that made their effective action most difficult, and they were dangerous to those who used them. Moreover, they were the weapons of a Power on the defensive, and their sphere of action was far more limited than the other torpedo destroyers. When once submerged they were in the most difficult position in which a vessel could be, in a perpetual fog, and when they put up their periscopes could only see a very little way. They could not be used at night. They could not be used at any distance from their own port. In short, they could scarce be used at all for purposes of attack, and he hoped we should never be in the position of using them for defence. What was said by a great man 300 years ago was true to-day, "that he who would be master at sea must always attack," and he hoped we should always attack and never be in that position in which the submarine was of any considerable use. It was the weapon of the people that we should attack. Under those circumstances it was perhaps reasonable that we should have a few of these ships to see what would be the best way of dealing with them. He could approve of our having five or six, but when he found that there were already twenty-eight in existence, and that ten others were to be added to that number, he thought the Admiralty was making a great mistake and pursuing an altogether false policy. His own view was that the submarine was not our weapon, and that in the second place it was a dangerous weapon to those who used it. It was very doubtful whether it would be of any use in war, either for defence or offence, and he regretted that our sailors, who should be afloat in ships, should be put into these horrible engines. He doubted whether they could ever be developed in such a way as to make them safe, and he objected to the large expenditure that was being made upon them.

*Sir JOHN LENG (Dundee) said a submarine was really a mechanical fish, with this difference, that they could not put into it the eyes of a fish to show where it was going. The periscope was a most ineffective instrument, and he doubted whether the Admiralty's steam fish would be really serviceable for naval purposes. Anyone accustomed to go under water or who had gone down in a diving bell knew how difficult it was to see any great distance under water, and he entirely concurred in thinking that the Admiralty had made a great mistake in multiplying the number of submarines without having more knowledge and experience as to their utility. Had the Admiralty any definite and positive information that the submarine had been of any practical utility in actual warfare? Did they know whether it had been employed to any purpose in the war between Russia and Japan? If they had no such information, why did they go on building these craft? They were told that nearly a million had already been spent on them. That was a large sum to spend for merely experimental purposes, and he hoped the Admiralty would not go on experimenting until they had better evidence than, so far as he knew, they now possessed that the submarine would be of any use whatever in actual warfare.

Mr. PRETYMAN said that in listening to the criticism of the Admiralty by the hon. Member for King's Lynn, and to the advice he gave, he was rather encouraged by the fact that the Admiralty were criticised in good company, because when the hon. Member came to find fault with Admiral Togo, the criticism rather suggested that if the management of affairs in the Japan Sea had been in other hands the result might have been even more satisfactory. He thought the Admiralty need not accept all the criticism of the hon. Member for King's Lynn as necessarily more valuable than that of British officers.

Some very weighty words had fallen from the right hon. Baronet below the gangway, who was a keen student on all naval matters. He had not a word of complaint to make of the matter or the form of these criticisms. He could fully understand that changes such as had been made this year might bear the impression of being rather sudden. Whenever changes did come, especially in naval affairs, which had not been preceded by exposition, it naturally followed that those who had not studied the subject deeply did think them rather more sudden than they appeared to those who were in the sphere of the Admiralty work, and had followed up all the stages by which those changes had been brought about. He thoroughly agreed with the right hon. Baronet as to the value of continuity of policy; but they must not attach too much value to that factor, especially in view of the rapid changes in naval affairs in the past two or three years, not only in the matter of construction, as, for instance, in the introduction of submarines, but also in the fact that, for the first time for a very long period of years, we had some real results to go by of a conflict in which modern ships of equal value had been pitted against each other. It was obviously undesirable to discuss that branch of the subject on the floor of the House; but he could assure the right hon. Baronet and the Committee that many of the changes which had been discussed that afternoon were mainly, if not wholly, due to the lessons they were endeavouring to learn from what had occurred in actual practice in the Far East. He could thoroughly understand that when changes, such as those which had been introduced, were brought before the public for the first time they were likely to strike people who were not in the inner circle of the Admiralty as rather more sudden and flashy than they really were.

Then the right hon. Baronet suggested—and he thoroughly agreed with him—that it ought not to be the policy of the British Admiralty to follow other nations, but that we ought to lead. Other speakers who followed apparently criticised this policy of the Admiralty on the ground that we were not following the practice of other nations. They had been told that we ought not to have discarded certain third-class cruisers, because other nations were keeping that class and were building similar ships. He claimed that the Admiralty had not followed but had led other nations, except in one point, and that was in respect to the size of our armaments. Our naval policy was not one of embarking in large schemes of construction which were not necessitated by the schemes of foreign Powers.

The hon. Gentleman opposite had referred to a subject of great importance, that of submarines, and to the unfortunate accidents which had happened to three of that class of boats. He thought it would be recognised that when the actual character of what had occurred in those accidents was known, it would be perfectly clear that they were not due to any defect in the submarines themselves. The fact was that, in so far as our experience went, the submarine was no more liable to accident than any other class of vessel. But when accidents did occur the consequences were infinitely more disastrous, and that showed that special precautions ought to be taken to avoid accidents. In these accidents men had been sacrificed whose services the country could ill afford to lose. They had gladly laid down their lives for their country just as much as those who had fallen in action. That was a risk which they had gladly taken—and the Admiralty recognised that devotion to patriotic duty—but others had come forward, ready and willing to take the same risk to-morrow. He could assure the Committee that the effect of these accidents had not been to decrease the number of those sailors, engineers, and stokers who were willing to volunteer for this service. That only increased the responsibility of the Admiralty. They accepted that responsibility. The submarine was the weapon of the weaker Power, but we were bound to answer these weaker Powers and build submarines. The Admiralty and the Navy were of opinion that the only answer to the submarine was the submarine. It would have been well for this country if the submarine had never been invented. The Admiralty would have been truly thankful if no such thing as a submarine had been invented; but, having been invented, and having come into actual operation, and the Admiralty having satisfied themselves that it was a force to be reckoned with, surely they would be guilty of something worse than negligence if they did not make the only reply that could be made. The Admiralty did not originate the policy of submarines. It was originated by what he hoped he might call without offence weaker Powers, and we had followed the submarine with the submarine. The Admiralty were convinced that the submarine was a necessary adjunct of modern naval warfare, and that in this, as in other matters, they were obliged to take the lead. Although the French submarines were more numerous than ours, he did not think that even a Frenchman would suggest that they were better or more efficient. As a matter of fact, in regard to speed and in other particulars, he thought he might safely say that our submarines were much more efficient.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE asked for information with regard to the defence of Bantry and Berehaven.

MR. PRETYMAN said that by submarines a question of principle was involved. The right hon. Member for Yarmouth appeared to consider that the submarine might under certain circumstances be used for offence against land defence. He did not know where that idea originated; certainly not at the Admiralty. With regard to the defence of ports, that defence involved the destruction of any vessels that attempted to attack them, and that destruction should be carried out as far from the ports as possible. It was natural to think that for the defence of a port there should be a smaller submarine, and a larger one for work outside. But that view reminded him of the man with two cats, a big cat and a little one, for whose exit he made both a big and a little hole.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he had no opinion on the point himself; he had called attention to the fact that it was the universally accepted French view, and was adopted by Admiral Fournier when he took the chair the other day at Cherbourg at a lecture on the submarine.

MR. PRETYMAN said he had merely stated the conclusion the Admiralty had arrived at. It was possible that other authorities took a different view, and the authority of the French Admiralty was a high one. The view of the British Admiralty, however, was that the larger submarine could do all the work of the smaller one, and more besides. With regard to the replacing by submarines of what had been known as submarine mine defence, after careful consideration, not only by the Navy, but the Army and the Committee of Defence also, it was decided that under modern conditions the policy of stationary mine defence was the wrong policy for this country. It had, therefore, been decided to abolish submarine mine defence both in the naval and mercantile ports; and that defence would be replaced mainly and primarily by gun power, and also, as far as was necessary, as fast as vessels were available, and the conditions were suitable, by submarines. It was not correct, therefore, to make the statement that submarine mines would be abandoned in order definitely and solely to replace them by submarines. He assured the Committee that the Admiralty were proceeding cautiously in the rate of construction; they had no desire to build one submarine more than was necessary, or to expose officers and men of the Navy to any more risk than was necessary.

With regard to what had been called the command of the Pacific, upon which he need not dwell at length, the expression was used rather loosely. The Pacific was a considerable area, and to speak of its mastery was a term which should hardly be used. As a matter of fact we had on the Pacific a considerable Fleet, on the China Station, and on the Australian side, where there were ships of no inconsiderable value. Those were the two points in the Pacific where there were British interests which might require defence; but he could hardly think that it would be seriously suggested that beyond that it would be necessary for us to keep a large force on the Pacific, in order to attempt to obtain what was called the mastery of the Pacific. He did not think this country desired the mastery of any sea beyond this—that British commerce and interests should go there without fear or favour and have equal opportunity with those of other nations. To suggest in that House that we desired to obtain the mastery of the Pacific or any other sea might give a false impression, which he desired to remove. The ships we had on the China and Australian Stations, however, were sufficient not only for British trade and interests to-day, but, as far as could be foreseen, for a very long to-morrow.

Turning to the very important question of dockyard labour, and the construction and repairs as between dockyards and private yards, he had no cause for complaint in the criticisms, and recognised the moderation with which hon. Members representing dockyard constituencies had dealt with the question. He agreed with every word that had been said in regard to the unfortunate position in which the discharged men found themselves. It was perfectly true that this large army of labour had been collected at points where there was no alternative employment of the character the men required. But that was not the fault of the Admiralty; the dockyards were stationed on the narrow seas at a time when ships were built of wood, and they had grown gradually. The result was that now-a-days the dockyards were at a great distance from any other centre where employment could be obtained. It was, unfortunately, unavoidable and inevitable. Yet the House could not be asked to vote money for the Navy, not because that money was required for naval purposes, but in order to give employment to a special class of men in the dockyards. That being recognised, it only remained to say that the Admiralty should do everything in their power to carry out the reduction, which was admitted to be necessary, with as little inconvenience and distress as possible to the men who unfortunately had to be discharged. Everything possible in that direction had been and was being done.

He would point out that hon. Members who had carefully studied the question from their point of view, just as the Admiralty had from theirs, had not made any suggestion as to how this difficulty might be avoided. He was quite sure that if there were any short and easy mode of obviating the difficulty it would have been suggested. There had been minor suggestions. It was suggested that the Admiralty might carry out these discharges in a different manner, that the right sort of men were not being discharged, but he could assure hon. Members that no such action had been taken by the Admiralty. All that the Admiralty had done was to regulate the discharges as far as they possibly could so as to make them gradual, to spread them over the best time, and so to avoid discharges in the winter. As to the particular men who were to be discharged, that had been left entirely in the hands, in each case, of the admiral superintendent in the yard; and the general principle adopted was that men with the least service were the first to be discharged. As between trades, obviously reference must be had to the requirements of work in the particular trade, so that of two men discharged in two different trades one might have had more service than the other. But the general policy was as he had stated. He knew that the admiral superintendents felt most deeply on the matter, knowing that many of the men discharged were admirable workmen. Still the discharges had to be carried out, and it was inevitable that those who were discharged should feel that perhaps somebody else should have been selected. He deeply regretted the necessity for these discharges, and any Member who at any time could make a practical suggestion by which, without increasing the burden upon the taxpayers, those discharges could be lessened, would receive the careful attention of the Admiralty.

Mr. DUKE asked what was the extent to which these discharges were going.

Mr. PRETYMAN said that that was a reasonable request, but the final policy could not be stated until the Dockyard Committee, now sitting, reported, but the number of discharges which would be necessary during the present financial year, 1905–6, including those discharges already made during that year, was:—Portsmouth, 2,270; Chatham, 2,300; Devonport, 1,659; Sheerness, 800. That was as far as the calculations of the Admiralty enabled them to judge at present.

As to construction in dockyards and private yards, it was perfectly clear if owing to the naval position of the day and the increased power of the individual units there were considerably less ships to be built during the year, a general reduction must take place. The matter was receiving most careful consideration by the Dockyard Committee; but he would venture to say, so far as he could indicate any probable policy not yet decided upon, that construction in the dockyards would not cease, nor would that in the private yards cease, but there would continue to be a division of construction, although what exactly that would be he could not indicate until the Report of the Dockyard Committee was received. As to repairs, two considerations must be borne in mind—the very large excess of repairs owing to the repairs to boilers in the last two or three years, and the effect of the nucleus crews upon repairs. In each of those ships now in commission there was a large staff, part of whose duty was to keep in constant repair the machinery and interior of the ship. That saved work in the yards and affected great economy to the taxpayer, whilst thoroughly familiarising the *personnel* with the entire construction of the machines and engines which they would have to use. Therefore, they might expect that the cost of repairs in the future would be less.

MR. KEARLEY asked whether the question of cost would be taken into consideration in giving construction to dockyards and private yards.

MR. PRETYMAN said that was another point. His opinion was, after considering the question of cost carefully, that there was very little difference between private and Government yards. A good private yard would build at about the same cost as Government dockyards. A list of the completed cost of ten vessels of the "County" type showed that the cheapest was the "Monmouth," which was built by the London and Glasgow Company on the Clyde; the second was the "Kent" built at Portsmouth; and the third the "Bedford," built by the Fairfield Yard. The most expensive cost £759,000, and was built at Pembroke, and the cheapest cost £684,000.

MR. KEARLEY: Is it not notorious that Pembroke has no equipment to finish the building of a ship?

MR. PRETYMAN: No, I think Pembroke is very fair. I believe they are building more cheaply than they have in the past.

SIR ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead) sincerely trusted, as Member for a constituency which contained a famous private yard, that the Government would not accept the advice of the dockyard Members and give all the work to the dockyards. From the point of view of the men employed at Government and private yards, he could not see any difference as to the results of unemployment.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [12TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1905-6.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,768,300, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the *Personnel* for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

SIR ELLIOTT LEES, continuing his speech, said that in his own constituency there was at one time a considerable amount of Government work in Messrs. Baird's yard, but when the series of battleships which they were building came to an end there was a considerable reduction of hands. Hon. Members must remember that, after all, all shipbuilding was specialised work. The hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty had said that the dockyards had all been placed in districts that would not now have been selected, and that men thrown out of work had little chance of finding other employment and had to be provided for, but the same remark applied to private dockyards. The only other industries at Birkenhead were dock-labouring and slaughtering foreign cattle shipped alive to this country, and it was idle to suppose that if an expert man in the shipbuilding yard was discharged through dearth of employment he could turn his hand at once to those other occupations. It seemed to him that from the workmen's point of view there was no difference in the hardship of a man being thrown out of work whether he was employed in a Government or a private yard. And when hon. Members representing dockyard constituencies pointed out the hardship of these discharges from Government yards, he could only state that his constituents suffered in precisely the same way.

The hon. Member for Plymouth said that the dockyards had been of enormous service to the country. That was true, but so also had the private yards. In his opinion the sound policy of the Admiralty was to help the private yards and enable them to continue to exist, so that in time of war the Government yards might be devoted to repairs, and the private yards to construction to reinforce our Navy. He might also point out that the private yards also built ships for foreign Powers, and in the event of war we should have, in the ships in course of construction in private yards, a large reserve to go on with, because the Government could commandeer all the vessels which were being built for foreign nations and indemnify the builders against any loss through non-delivery. Foreign countries had a great respect for the judgment of our Admiralty, and when they wanted battleships or ships of war of any kind they ascertained in what yards the Admiralty placed their orders, and placed their own orders with the same yards. The result was that to the private yards the Government work was of great advantage from that point of view, as in that way private yards got many orders that would otherwise go to other countries. It had been said that private yards could look for many orders after the war, but he did not remember to have heard that Russia had ever given many orders for shipbuilding in this country, and he did not think she was likely to now. Japan in the past had had ships built in this country, but the cause which demanded a great naval effort had for the moment passed away, and it was more than likely that in the future Japan would build her ships herself. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on his policy with regard to construction, and reminded him that whatever pressure might be put upon him by those representing dockyard constituencies to deviate from the course he proposed to pursue, there would always be available, on the other hand, sufficient pressure from those representing private yards to enable the hon. Gentleman to keep his equilibrium.

Mr. BENN (Devonport) thanked the hon. Gentleman for the kind words he had uttered with regard to the very sad submarine disaster. He said some months had passed since he drew the attention of the Secretary to the Admiralty to words in the Memorandum of the First Lord which caused him considerable anxiety. In fact, there was real cause for alarm in the considerable alteration made in the policy of the Admiralty, because, looking at it in the light of the observations made just before the dinner hour by the hon. Gentleman, it appeared that, in the future construction would take a second place in the Royal dockyards. It would be a case of repairs first and construction afterwards. The First Lord said in his Memorandum that it was the first business of the dockyards to keep the Fleet in repair and therefore the amount of new construction should be subordinate to this consideration. He desired to enter a most powerful and emphatic protest against that view, for the reason that if that policy were to be continued the discharges would also continue. The nation had paid millions of money in establishing these dockyards and fitting them with appliances, and it would be a disastrous policy to turn them into mere repairing shops and to allow the construction machinery to fall into desuetude. He respectfully submitted that it was the first duty of the Government of the day to fill up, as far as possible, the Royal dockyards. They were the nation's workshops, and it would be the worst of all policies to starve them. To do so would be to deprive men of work and render them both hopeless and helpless, whereas in private yards there were opportunities to secure work from abroad, and if a workman failed to secure employment at one establishment, he could go on to another. He therefore suggested that it was within the power of the Government to stop straight away a great part of the discharges. Under the new naval policy they should first of all give out sufficient work to keep the Government establishments going, and then divide the remainder among the private yards. He was sure that any proposal to mitigate the present mischief would receive the sympathetic consideration of the hon. Gentleman. If the new policy of repairs first and construction afterwards obtained, the Government dockyards would be in a large measure destroyed as establishments for the production of ships. At present they employed two classes of competent men—one for construction and the other for repairs, but if the new policy were persisted in there would be found in the near future a scarcity of constructors.

There was another point of view. These Government establishments were founded first of all that the nation should produce in its own workshops and from its own designs its battleships. The time might arise when it would be important to construct with secrecy certain vessels according to the ideas of our own advisers, and it was possible that we might find it convenient and wise to keep to ourselves certain appliances for our instruments of war. In that case the dockyards would be an absolute necessity. Then there was the financial consideration, and although he was glad to see that the Government recognised the necessity for economy, retrenchment, and reform in certain directions, he could with confidence assert that once they disqualified themselves from producing with facility the finest of battleships in the Government yards, they would offer a premium to private yards—he would not say to form a ring against the Government, but at any rate there would be the temptation to charge higher prices. He submitted that the present policy should be reversed at the earliest possible moment in order to keep this most important department of national defence in our own hands, and to enable the Government yards to be the first and best sources for the supply of our battleships.

With regard to the question of wages, the Government were at present far behind private employers, and certainly were not the "model employers" they ought to be. In Devonport the environment of a labourer was very similar to that of a labourer in London, and he had in his hand the family budget of one of the men who served the Government for £1 a week. The family consisted of the man, his wife, and three children, and out of the £1 a week 5s. 5d. went in rent, 1s. 9d. in rates, 2s. 5d. for fire and light, 7d. for club-money, and 4d. for soap and sundries, leaving 9s. 6d. to feed five persons, to say nothing of beer, tobacco, holidays, and other matters. Threepence farthing per head per day! Moreover, fifty per cent. of these men were frequently called upon to do more or less skilled work for their £1 a week, and yet under the borough councils in London the minimum wage for scavengers was 27s. He submitted that the time had come for a reconsideration of the position of these labourers. The increase in the cost of food alone during the last two years was represented by at least 1s. 6d. a week to such a family as that to which he had referred. There was also the question of the discrepancy which existed between the wages paid in Government yards and those paid by private firms. The money value of the privileges granted to Government employees did not exceed 6d., or, at the outside, 1s. a week.

Mr. PRETYMAN: A shilling a week.

Mr. BENN was glad to have that confirmation of his figure. But even taking it at 1s., the discrepancy was far from being met. The average wages of joiners, for instance, in the shipbuilding yards of the Thames, the Tyne, the Mersey, the Clyde, and Belfast, were £2 a week, and their hours 51½, whereas in the Government yards the wages were only 32s. 6d. and the hours 48.

There was no satisfaction or economy in cheap and nasty labour. To get good labour a fair price must be paid. According to the hon, Gentleman's own figures the private yards were able to build as cheaply as the Government, so that there was no economy in sweating or starvation wages.

An HON. MEMBER: Does the hon. Member intend to insinuate that there is sweating in the dockyards ?

Mr. BENN said he did not mince matters; he would say without any insinuation that £1 a week for such work as he had seen in the dockyards partook of the nature of sweating. Then taking the average of the wages paid to men engaged in what he might term the "hardware" side of shipbuilding, there was a difference between the inside and the outside wages of 6s. 6d. per week. The pigeon-holes at the Admiralty were doubtless stuffed with the petitions of the men, and he suggested that the matter should be referred to a Committee consisting of officials and representatives of the men, so that justice might be done. If higher wages were paid the Admiralty would command a better class of men, but the result of the present policy was that the private yards got the pick of the workmen, and the highest quality of British skilled labour was engaged in the building of foreign ships. He also asked whether these labour questions came within the purview of the Committee referred to in the First Lord's Memorandum. If not, it was a great pity, and he would suggest that the reference should be enlarged so that the Committee might review the labour conditions at present obtaining in the dockyards.

Mr. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) joined in the protest against the action of the Government in reference to discharges. On a former occasion it was stated that the number of discharges should not, if it could be avoided, exceed twenty-five in any one week. It was not a definite promise, but the way in which that number had been exceeded had excited considerable surprise and disappointment. The position had been aggravated to some extent by the mistaken policy of the Government in reducing the work in the dockyards rather than in private yards. If the Government were satisfied that the efficiency of the Navy could be maintained at less cost, and that in justice to the taxpayer reductions should be made, he submitted that those reductions should be made in such a way as to be the least injurious to the men affected. He altogether disputed the argument that a reduction in the amount of Government work would affect men in private yards as seriously as men in Government yards. The latter had no other work to which they could turn, whereas private firms would at once look round for more private work, and it did not at all follow that a reduction in Government work would entail the dismissal of men. The Government had shown their interest for the welfare of the unemployed, but by their dockyard policy they were undoing in one direction the good they were endeavouring to do in another. He hoped the Admiralty would consider the importance of giving the bulk of their work to the dockyards. No doubt it was important to keep in touch with the private yards; they had a right to a share in the work, but the dockyards must always be regarded as the first source of supply, both for new construction and for repairs. The possible danger of relying too greatly upon private yards had not been exaggerated by the hon. Member for Devonport. In any case, in view of the great expenditure that had been made in the provision of plant for all classes of work, it would be detrimental to the interests of the country if the present policy were continued.

He regretted the action of the Government in increasing the number of their submarines. He would far rather that they approached other nations through the Hague Tribunal with a view to seeing whether the nations of the world would not set their faces against what appeared to him to be an unmanly and un-English method of warfare. He had perfect confidence in the naval policy of the Government, but he thought the Admiralty were inclined to neglect the dockyards in the interest of private firms, and, therefore, he hoped the

Secretary to the Admiralty would consider whether the policy they were pursuing in this respect was not likely to be detrimental to the best interests of the Navy and of the country.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said that Labour representatives had to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by this Vote to bring before the public the grievances of the men for the simple reason that the Government, unlike private firms, refused to allow the principle of collective bargaining which had proved so great an advantage in negotiations between private employers and their workmen. The only means Government workers had of making their grievances known was to go individually to their superiors, and everybody of experience knew the dangers which beset a man who was at all keen in pressing his grievances, no matter how just his complaints might be. The grievances in the dockyards were considerable, and the complaints, he believed, well founded. The Government was far from being a "model employer." One of the grounds of complaint was the method of the discharges, altogether apart from the general policy. Discharges had taken place, not merely in pursuance of the policy of cutting down the Navy Estimates, but because of an old-standing order under which apprentices had to be guaranteed a two years engagement at the termination of their apprenticeship, and as a result of which a considerable number of men, who had been in the service many years, and against whom there was not the shadow of complaint—in fact, they were often the best men in the yards—had been dismissed, and forced to start life anew. He appealed to the Secretary to the Admiralty to look into this matter, and suggested that if a Committee were appointed some of the Labour Members should be taken into consultation. The private employer brought the workmen into consultation when he wanted to alter the whole conditions of employment, but the Government did not adopt this course.

The grievance was felt to be more acute because of the want of any proper effort to remedy the evil. The question of the division of work between the private and the Government yards was a most important one, upon which he knew there was a sharp division of opinion in the House. Some hon. Members suggested that private yards should receive the first consideration, but he thought their first duty was towards their own yards. He had recently been over the Government works at Devonport, where they had spent over £5,000,000 of the nation's money, and notwithstanding this fact hon. Gentlemen opposite were urging that private dockyards should receive that further consideration which, if acceded to, would still further reduce the number of hands in the Government service. They ought not to proceed on those lines, because, if they did, employment in their own dockyards would be brought to a standstill. It had been demonstrated in this debate that it was possible to build ships in Government dockyards, if not cheaper, certainly as cheap as in some of the private yards. If they would only apply business methods to the conducting of the Royal dockyards he thought it would be possible to build in them cheaper than in private yards. It was well known that for a large percentage of the material used in their own dockyards they had to go to private firms. In his opinion the Government ought to have gone further than they had done and arranged things so that they could have undertaken more constructive work without depending so much upon private firms. Very little of the real constructive work of a ship was created in their own dockyards, and therefore the proportion of the labour employed by the Government in the construction of a ship was comparatively small. Frequently work required in one department instead of being sent to another Government department was put out to contract. If the various departments worked together more harmoniously, and if they were allowed to do work for each other at cost price, the volume of work done in the Government dockyards would be considerably increased. The policy adopted by the Government was one which ought not to be continued, and they would only be doing the right thing by the taxpayer if they kept all these dockyards going at the fullest pace by providing them with work which was now given to private firms.

He wished also to say a few words in regard to the three years system of employment in the dockyards, which he did not think tended either to economy or efficiency. They sometimes appointed as a chief superintendent a gentleman who had doubtless occupied a high position in connection with the Admiralty, and he would take charge of the works. He might discover that certain things ought to be altered. Months would pass and then he would probably try to put those changes into operation with a view to improving the system. By that time probably his three years appointment would be well nigh gone and he would be moved up. He would very likely be sent to sea to take charge of another department, and somebody else would be sent to take his place as chief superintendent. Who suffered by this system? The taxpayers, because the new man had to go through the whole process again, and endeavour to find out where he could make improvements. There were in the House of Commons hon. Members who were connected with some of our leading manufactures, including great engineers and colliery proprietors. He ventured to say that not one of them would ever dream of conducting his business on those lines. If a business man got the man he had set his heart upon, who was capable of economising and effecting improvements, who could turn out better work more rapidly, he would not be anxious for him to be moved somewhere else at the end of three years. As long as a man could turn out rapid and efficient work that was the man an employer would desire to keep in his employment. They had no right to deal with the money of the taxpayer in a different way to that which they would adopt if they were spending their own. If the Government got a good manager they ought to endeavour to keep him, and the sooner this triennial system was abolished the better.

*SIR WALTER PLUMMER (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said the hon. Member who had just sat down spoke so strongly in favour of employment in Government dockyards that he appeared to forget the great mass of workmen on Tyneside who were engaged in private dockyards. It was on this account that he could not help saying a few words on this occasion with regard to that most important and valuable national asset, the private dockyards of this country. It was not the first time they had had a discussion as to how far the Government was justified in their division of work between the Government and private dockyards; the subject, indeed, was practically a hardy annual. He represented a constituency where there was a private dockyard, and he declared that in such private yards they possessed a national asset. These establishments had been of great service to the nation in times of stress in the past, and if they were properly cultivated they would continue to be so. He spoke on behalf of a constituency greatly interested in private dockyards, and he trusted the Government would continue to hold the balance fairly between the two interests, and that they would not make the great mistake of putting all their eggs into one basket. It had been urged that there had been a large amount of national money sunk in the Government dockyards, but owing to the support given by the Government to private yards hundreds of thousands of private capital had been invested in those yards, and it would be grossly unfair if the Government were to reverse the policy hitherto pursued of giving a fair and just share of the national work to them. The people living in non-dockyard towns were after all taxpayers and were entitled to receive a fair share of the work of the country. He did not speak on behalf of the private employer, but on behalf of the thousands employed in these private yards at Newcastle and elsewhere who had a right to ask the Government to continue the policy of giving them a fair share of their work. The moral of the debate was that in times of stress such as we had passed through a few years ago, the Government should not allow the Royal dockyards to be swollen to undue and artificial dimensions. It was because these establishments had been doubled in such years that the Government found themselves in the present difficulty. They ought at such times to maintain the establishments in full work and give the surplus work to the private yards. Then the position of dockyard Members would be more pleasant.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) urged the Government to avoid allowing the dockyard work to become spasmodic and fluctuating. He knew of cases where men trained in the dockyards had, in consequence of this policy, to seek employment in the United States dockyards.

***SIR WALTER PLUMMER**: Surely that is free trade in labour.

MR. RUNCIMAN did not object to it on that ground. He believed in free trade, but not in free gifts of skill to America. The Admiralty had now reverted to the better system of conducting repairs in their own dockyards, but they had pushed ahead their repairs with feverish haste, as shown by the fact that some of the vessels repaired were now struck off the list, that the men could not now be fully employed, and they had not a regular supply of work for them.

There was one point to which he wished to draw the attention of the Secretary to the Admiralty, and it was in regard to the new vessels under construction. It was a point which might re-open some of the very grave questions which were discussed a few years ago, and which to-day had been singularly absent from their deliberations. For some years past they had been constructing battleships of enormous tonnage, and if the information which had leaked out was correct the newest type of battleship was to exceed the largest of its predecessors by 2,000 tons, and they were now going to embark upon 18,000 ton battleships. He did not wish to criticise the conclusions of the Designs Committee, but perhaps he might be allowed to suggest that there were considerations which were strongly in favour of not building battleships of excessive size. The cost of the new battleships worked out at about £1,500,000 each and that compared with the "Swiftsure" class was 50 per cent. more expensive. Certainly they would do as good work as vessels of the "King Edward" type. In large vessels also they had a very great draught of water, and that was a consideration in respect to which, perhaps he might be allowed to make a comparison. It was a consideration which would in future become more and more valuable to the Admiralty. Of the recent vessels added to our Fleet, some were of comparatively greater draught than those which had been added to the German fleet. The "Majestic," for example, drew 27 feet 6 inches, whereas the "Kaiser Frederick III." drew 25 feet 6 inches, the "Canopus" 26 feet, and the "Formidable" 26 feet 9 inches, while he believed the "King Edward VII." drew 26 feet 8 inches. There was no battleship in the German navy which drew more than "Kaiser Frederick," and they were designed for the very work which the Admiralty intended for those he had mentioned. For shallow-water work a difference of one foot was a great consideration. When they remembered that the North Sea might some day or other be the battleground on which our vessels would be tested, he thought we should be extremely cautious in adding vessels to the Fleet of more than 26 feet draught.

There were two considerations—one was the draught and the other the expense—which argued in favour of not proceeding to excessive size. They had to consider also the easy way in which a large vessel could be lost. He thought that all the arguments were in favour of not putting all the eggs in one basket. He was not sure that there was not a great deal to be said for having three battleships costing about £1,000,000 each of smaller size, rather than two costing £1,500,000 apiece. He knew that the argument against that was that they could not have the same class of armaments on the smaller vessels as on the larger ones. He knew that most naval authorities were in favour of the larger vessels, but there was a consideration which weighed largely with the naval authorities when they were making up their programme for the year, and when they had to lay their proposals before the Treasury, which said to them that they could only have four instead of five, or three instead of four vessels.

The Admiralty said if they were only to have three they would have three of the largest. He hoped that consideration did not weigh too strongly with the hon. Gentleman. The considerations in favour of the smaller sized battleships were not discarded so largely in other navies. Not only did they adopt smaller battleships in Germany and the United States, but somehow or other they had succeeded in getting into the smaller ships the armaments which we put into the larger ones. They might quite possibly reduce their engine power, or diminish their space or bunker capacity. He trusted that the subject was not being too lightly dismissed by the Committee with which the hon. Gentleman was connected. He threw out these suggestions as an amateur, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would give some of his personal attention to them.

Another point to be remembered in connection with the increasing draught was that it became more and more difficult to find dock accommodation for these ships. He also asked what improvements had been made during the last three or four years in the coal consumption of the vessels we had recently been building. His late friend Sir W. Allan used to bring this matter forward year after year, and he could not pretend to have anything like his technical knowledge of the subject. It was really very alarming to find that in some of our vessels in recent years the consumption of coal per indicated horse power per hour was extraordinarily heavy. In the case of the "King Edward," with a speed of 11½ knots, the consumption was 2·63 lbs. per indicated horse power. Compared with the consumption in an ordinary cargo steamer, which was now approximately just over 1 lb. per indicated horse power, he thought this consumption really alarming. At 17 knots the "King Edward" reached her most economical consumption on this basis. It worked out at 1·06 lbs., and at 19 knots it worked out at 2·17 lbs. In the case of the "Dominion" the lowest consumption was 1·68 of indicated horse power per hour. In the case of cruisers the consumption was even higher. The smallest consumption on a 20-knot basis was 2·02 lbs. When they came to the third class of cruisers the consumption was more alarming, for vessels with reciprocating engines burned 2·52 lbs. These were very large figures indeed. Two years ago hopes were expressed that the vessels under construction would have a very much smaller consumption than those which he then quoted. The "Sapphire" figures had not gone down but actually up. The only reduction so far as he could see was in the case of the turbine boat, "Amethyst," which with a 20-knot speed burned 2½ lbs. This was so far above the standard in the merchant service that he suggested there must be a great discrepancy somewhere. It was not merely a matter of design, but of the boilers and engines put into the vessels.

He thought he might say that, as far as the discussion of naval matters went, they were at all events free in the House from any unnecessary partisanship in the criticism offered. Their criticism was not in the interest of Party but of the British Navy itself. He though they might express some satisfaction that in the recent naval victory of Japan in the Far East the whole of the guns which brought about the victory were of British design and manufacture, and that almost the whole of the vessels were built in this country. He hoped this would give some reason for believing that the vessels of our Fleet were of an equally high standard, so that if the time should ever come for action—which God forbid—they might be equally successful.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich) said that if he had to choose between speaking on behalf of his constitutents or of a particular firm he thought he should speak on behalf of his constituents. Hon. Members who represented dockyard towns were absolutely jeered at when they spoke on behalf of those whose interests they were there to look after, but the House cheered when hon. Members got up and asked what their firms were to do if this particular municipality or that particular Government dockyard was allowed to interfere in the business in which they were concerned. Surely hon. Members could speak not only in the interest of their constituents but the ratepayers at large. He offered no apology for intervening in the debate in order to ask the Government one or two plain Questions. According to the argument of the hon. Member for Newcastle it would be to the advantage of the whole community that the Government should give all the extra work to the private yards because the owners had invested hundreds of thousands of pounds of capital in the concerns. He wished to point out that Government dockyards were not in the same position as private yards inasmuch as they could only do work for our Government while private firms could compete for the building of ironclads for foreign Governments. There was a case in his recollection where one of the departments of the Admiralty took up the position of manufacturers when private firms had locked out their men. He hoped they would not attempt to repeat that.

He asked why dockyard work should not be conducted on the business lines of a private firm, and why when all the machinery of the dockyards was not employed work should be given to private firms. All he asked was that the Government dockyards should be put on exactly the same footing as those run by the Elswick firm and the Barrow-in-Furness firm. The owners of these yards would not give work to anybody else in the way the Government did. Why should the Government let their machinery go to rust because they wished to give work to private yards? There might be something to be said for that if private firms were willing in times of emergency to serve the Government at peace prices, but everybody knew that they did not. They had only to cast their minds back to the recent war to remember what was done by the patriotic shipowners. It required no stretch of imagination to see that they were only patriotic for as much as they could get out of it. He thought the Admiralty might have found useful work for most of the 7,000 men who had been discharged from the dockyards, and the machinery might have been kept going. Were they always going to depend on private employers? It was sometimes said that Government employment was permanent. It was not so. It was only permanent so long as it lasted. The man who thought he had a permanent job must be an extraordinary man; he must be related to a duke. The sensible and business method was to keep men in steady work at the dockyards, and to make them feel that while the nation expected from them the best service they could give, their own interests were not neglected by the Government.

*MR. PRETYMAN said the labour question was confined solely to construction. It could not apply to repairs, because the whole of that work went to the dockyards. With regard to construction, he would point out, while admitting that every consideration should be given the workmen, that there was one interest which had not been referred to at all, but which outweighed and over-rode all others—the interest of the Navy as a whole. In the matter of new construction it was clearly the pre-eminent interest of the country that there should be a building power not only in the dockyards, but also in the private yards, capable of expansion in times of emergency; and, if all the work was given to the dockyards, where would that power of expansion and capacity come from. The Admiralty could not afford to neglect the national asset which they had in the private building yards.

In regard to dockyard wages it was the policy of the Admiralty to pay unskilled labour at least as high a wage as that paid to unskilled labour in the district. There was no such test as that to apply in regard to skilled trades in the dockyards, and they approached the wages paid to those trades from the standpoint of the general average rate throughout the country. The most careful comparisons were constantly made, and the result was to show that the standard of wage in the Government dockyards compared favourably with that in the private yards. The junior Member for Devonport cited figures which seemed to show that, in certain trades at all events, that was not so, and if the hon. Member would send him those figures they should have the most earnest attention of the Admiralty. It had been the practice of the First Lord to receive the representatives of organised labour to confer with them once a year. They had consulted the representatives of trades unions who visited the Admiralty in February last. What they had to say had received the most careful attention.

The hon. Member for Dewsbury had raised two important questions. With regard to the first one, that of the size of battleships, he could assure the hon. Member that not one of the factors he had mentioned had been neglected. They had all been taken into consideration. The hon. Member asked that this question should be taken into consideration. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that that was one of the factors of naval policy which had always been taken into consideration. A large battleship was clearly in itself an evil. It was subject to all the disabilities the hon. Gentleman had enumerated; but, notwithstanding all these disabilities, they were driven by the necessities of the case to build big battleships. One of the principal lessons of the present war was to show the value of the battleship, though there was something that came even before that, and that was the value of a highly-trained *personnel*. He fully admitted that the battleship had vindicated herself most thoroughly.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Togo used his larger cruisers in the same line, and in the same way, along with the battleships.

***Mr. PRETYMAN** said that probably Admiral Togo would before the battle, have felt more certain of the result if he had had battleships in the place of those cruisers. They could not afford to take risks, except when obliged. We must recognise that the battleship was not for restricted but for general service; and, once they began a policy of specialising and building a small ship for one purpose and a large one for another, they would be landed in interminable difficulties and expense, and when the time came perhaps the ships would not be of the very best service in the place where they were wanted. In their position, he believed the hon. Gentleman would adopt the same policy of building battleships of the large size. They wanted battleships, moreover, not "almost" but quite of the first class, and another lesson of the war was in favour of the 12-inch guns.

The hon. Member asked a very pertinent question as to coal consumption, but there was a very great difference between a battleship and a merchantman. The former had a very large number of auxiliary engines which had to do a great deal of work in connection with the ship, and which were entirely absent in the case of the Atlantic liner. There was also the question of room, to which something had to be sacrificed in the case of a cruiser.

The hon. Member for Barnard Castle raised two important points, both covered by the Dockyard Committee. In connection with the apprentice matter, it was not a question of an old order, but of contract, and the hon. Member for Plymouth had recognised that the contract could not be broken. The hon. Member had made his criticisms from a business standpoint, and he was perfectly prepared to accept that standpoint, with this reservation that the business the Admiralty were carrying on was not the business of private shipbuilding, but the business of running the British Navy. They must therefore widen their horizon. They had to deal with this question of dockyards, not as a private firm dealt with it, not as a question merely of profit and loss on that particular business, but as a branch of the administration of the British Navy as a whole. And if there was one more valuable rule than another in the whole gamut of the rules, regulations, and traditions of the British Navy it was what was known as the sea-time rule. It was absolutely necessary that the administrative and executive work and the *personnel* should be intimately connected; and, although they were properly kept as separate as possible in regard to the work at any moment, it was necessary to avoid any cleavage. There was no principle more important than that, and there must be alternation. The admiral-superintendent, a naval officer, must have a restricted term of service under the sea-time rule. Not long since a civil assistant had been appointed under him who was a permanent officer, and the whole matter of dockyard reorganisation from the admiral-superintendent down to the unskilled labourer would be under the purview of the Dockyard Committee. He appealed to the Committee to give the Vote.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that Ireland received little or no benefit from this great naval expenditure, and as they contributed more than their just share there should be more money spent in Ireland than at present. Wales got a considerable proportion of the expenditure on the Navy; England had all the great dockyards; and in Scotland they had a big share of the shipbuilding, so that in Ireland they had grave cause of complaint. The wages earned in England and Scotland from Government work were so large that the towns derived great advantage. He understood that the money spent on works at Haulbowline was of a very trivial kind compared with that spent in England, Wales, and Scotland. He would be very grateful to the hon. Gentleman if he could give the Irish Members any idea of how much Ireland derived from this great naval expenditure.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil, said he desired to express his disappointment that no definite understanding had been given as to the dismissals or rates of wages of dockyard men. The hon. Gentleman had given great expression of sympathy but nothing practical had resulted. There was no justification for the dismissals from Government dockyards. In the case of Government yards, with any sort of decent management, the business should be nearly a constant quantity. They ought to have some assurance that this method of employing men for two or three months and then dismissing them should be discontinued. As to wages, he contended that 21s. a week was not a rate of wages that should be paid to a Government employee. The demand of the men was most moderate—namely, that the minimum should be raised to 23s. 6d. a week, and the higher order of labourers to 24s. a week. He understood that the Government, through the Civil Lord, would not take these claims into consideration, but he insisted that they should be conceded, especially when it was remembered that, in the case of the specially skilled labourers, the rate of pay had been fixed so long ago as 1890. Only 2,000 men out of the 27,000 employed would be affected, and the cost would not be very great.

MR. PRETYMAN said that in answer to the hon. Member for Waterford he was afraid he could not give off-hand the figures relating to capital expenditure in Ireland.

MR. KEARLEY said he wished again to draw attention to the overcrowding at Devonport. The Home Office had adopted the view that on account of the abnormal rate of rent the police there were entitled to special consideration. He asked that the Admiralty should inquire into the matter from their side also.

MR. PRETYMAN said he was quite prepared to consider any figures which the hon. Gentleman would submit to him. But there was a considerable difference between the case of the dockyard labourers and the police. The latter were required to be within a certain distance of the yard because of the special character of their duty. The dockyard labourer was not under the same obligation to live in the immediate vicinity of the yard. He hoped that the congestion at Devonport would presently be relieved, and that a fall of rents would follow.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said that in view of the fact that he had had no reply from the Government to the point raised by him, he would move to reduce the vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,768,200, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Mr. PRETYMAN said that he thought he had given an Answer. The principle applied in these cases was one laid down by the House itself—namely, that the same wages were to be paid to Government employees as were paid in similar trades in the district. The whole of the employment in the dockyards was graded, and if they raised the wages of one class of men they would have to raise wages throughout all the grades. It was a matter which required to be looked into very carefully.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 70; Noes, 116. (Division List No. 221.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allen, Charles P.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Doogan, P. C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Hammond, John
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, P.J. (Westmeath, N.)
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Richards, Thomas
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Keir Hardie and Mr. Henderson.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A, Cameron (Glasgow
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Rt Hn. Ailywyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon, George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Heaton, John Henniker
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, John (Kent, Faverslam
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N

Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Robertson, Herbert Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Rt Hn J. Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £4,816,900, Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.—*Matériel.*

3. £7,827,800, Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.—Contract Work

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,256,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Victualling and Clothing for the Navy, including the cost of Victualling Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1906."

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

SUPPLY.

[22nd June, Afternoon Sitting.]

Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1905-6.

Class II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £10,633, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1906, for the Salaries and Expenses of the office of His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Office, Expenses under The Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1900, and Expenses under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, including a Grant in Aid of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) said it was understood that if they allowed the three Navy Votes to go through no other business would be taken, and a good many Scotch Members had left the House upon that understanding.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): As far as I am aware there never was any suggestion that we should not go on with Supply, nor would such a course be in accordance with the ordinary practice. I think we ought to proceed with the Supply Votes on the Paper.

MR. WHITLEY said it was in consequence of the understanding to which he alluded that they did not challenge three divisions which would have taken all the time up to midnight.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I do not think any harm can be done by discussing this Vote now.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said it was clearly understood that the discussion was to proceed until midnight, and as many hon. Members interested in the Vote now before them had gone away it was futile to say that they could conveniently discuss this matter now, because those who wished to discuss it were not present. The Opposition had kept their pledge to allow these Votes to get through before twelve o'clock, and he hoped the Government would not press this Vote now.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I did not suggest that hon. Members opposite had any ulterior motives. There are, however, two non-contentious measures on the Order Paper which perhaps we might be permitted to take now. I refer to Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill and the War Stores (Commission) Bill.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said that his understanding of the arrangement come to was that the hon. Gentleman opposite, representing the Government, undertook that if the Opposition allowed him to have this Vote he would not press for a division at 7.30, and after he had got the three Votes necessary to make up Vote 8 he would not press any further business. He admitted that there was some doubt as to the questions which would crop up after that business was disposed of, but, on the Opposition side of the House, many hon. Members were under the impression that no further Votes in Supply would be taken. On that understanding many Scotch Members had left the House. He did not suppose that anyone would take exception to Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill, but the other measure alluded to by the Prime Minister was of great importance, and a large number of hon. Members who took a great interest in it were not present.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said he was in the House when the arrangement referred to by the hon. Member was made, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to allow that arrangement to be carried out.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I shall be quite prepared to accede to that request, but I must express a certain measure of surprise that a Bill which has been introduced by arrangement with hon. Members opposite, the very terms of which have been agreed upon, should now be regarded as being of such a character that we cannot discuss it now. Having expressed that view, I will not press the matter further to-night, and I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*),—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at five minutes before
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 30th June, 1905.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:

1. Finance.

2. Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland).

3. Metropolitan Police Provisional Order.

4. Alexander Scott's Hospital Order Confirmation.

5. Grangemouth Waterworks and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation.

6. Arbroath Corporation Water Order Confirmation.

7. Dundee Water Order Confirmation.

8. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).

9. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).

10. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4).

11. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).

12. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6).

13. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).

14. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).

15. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 15).

16. Local Government Provisional Order (Gas).

17. Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law).

18. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1).

19. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 2).

20. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 3).

21. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1).

22. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).

23. Municipal Corporations (Merthyr Tydfil Scheme Confirmation).

24. Walker and Wallsend Union Gas.

25. Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment).

26. Cordoba and Rosario Railway.

27. Entre Rios Railways.

28. Marylebone Chapels.

29. West Cumberland Electric Tramways (Extension of Time).

30. Holy Trinity, Portsea.

31. Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water.

32. Commercial Union Assurance.

33. Mortgage Insurance Corporation.

34. Truro Water.

35. Hastings Harbour.

36. Weybridge and Walton-upon-Thames Electric Supply.

37. Chelsea Electricity Supply.

38. Epping Gas.

39. South Suburban Gas.

40. Nottingham and Retford Railway.

41. Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

42. Metropolitan District Railway.

43. Orphan Working School and Alexandra Orphanage.

44. East Cowes Gas.

45. Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment).

46. Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads.

47. Tralee Urban District Council.

48. Clay Cross Railway (Abandonment).

49. Great Berkhampstead Gas.

50. Mexborough and Swinton Tramways (Extension of Time).

51. Wrexham Gas.

52. Dublin Corporation (Superannuation).

53. South Oxfordshire Water and Gas.

54. Clyde Navigation.

55. Great Eastern Railway.

56. Loughborough Corporation.

57. Norwich Union Life Insurance Society.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

58. Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water.

59. South Metropolitan Gas.

60. Ilfracombe Harbour and Improvement.

61. Accrington District Gas and Water Board.

62. Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock.

63. Otley Improvement.

64. Accrington Corporation.

65. Aylesbury Gas.

66. Croydon Gas.

67. Aberdare Urban District Council.

68. Colne Corporation.

69. North Sussex Gas.

70. South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company.

71. London United Tramways (Extension of Time).

72. Alexandra Park and Palace.

73. Metropolitan Railway.

74. Barry Railway.

75. Clacton Improvement.

76. Dearne Valley Railway.

77. Croydon Corporation.

78. Stockport Corporation.

79. Birmingham Corporation.

80. Brentwood Gas.

81. Darien Gold Mining Company.

82. Leven's Patent.

83. Rhymney Railway.

84. Morley Corporation.

85. McConnell's Divorce.

86. Lautour's Divorce.

87. Malone's Divorce (Validation).

88. Gamble's Divorce.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—North British Railway (General Powers); Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power; Great Northern Railway (Ireland); London County Council (Money); Metropolitan Electric Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill. A petition of Messrs. Turner and Company, of 34, High Holborn, London, Parliamentary Agents, praying for leave to present a petition of the Electrical Contractors' Association and others, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 93 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table, and Standing Order No. 93 to be considered on Monday next in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed. Read, and agreed to.

London and North-Western Railway Bill. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 5th and 8th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

Corbett Estate Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

Forty-seventh Report of the Board of Superintendence of Dublin Hospitals, with appendices, for the year 1904–1905.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND) 1904.

Part II. Civil Statistics.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.

Eighty-third Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, dated 29th June, 1905.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SHIPPING LAW.

LORD MUSKERRY rose to call attention to a resolution, adopted at the recent Conference on International Maritime Law at Liverpool, pointing out the necessity of the representation of His Majesty's Government at the forthcoming International Conference convened by the Government of Belgium to consider the draft codes relating to collisions at sea and salvage; and to move to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that, in the interests of British shipping, His Majesty's Government should ensure that this country should be represented at the International Conference on Shipping Law about to be held in Belgium."

The noble Lord said: Your Lordships may remember that last year I urged upon the Government the importance of the forthcoming International Maritime Conference convened by the Belgian Government, and how imperative it was that this country should be represented at that conference. On March 4th of last year the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs received a deputation made up of most of the highest authorities in the shipping and legal world. From the reply of the noble Marquess to this deputation it was clear that he was impressed by the magnitude and gravity of the interests involved in the matter, and by the interdependence of the interests of our country and our merchant service. Furthermore, the noble Marquess was quite alive to the weighty character of the deputation itself.

It is the case that hitherto the British Government of the day have refused to participate in Maritime Congresses such as that about to take place. The reasons which have prompted them in this have been expressed in the reply of the noble Marquess in this House and in that to the deputation to which I have alluded. These reasons, I gather, are, firstly, that it is not in accordance with precedent that the British Government should appoint representatives at conferences of the kind; and, secondly, that whilst British shipping was the predominant partner in the world's shipping it would only be allowed equal representation with the smaller maritime Powers. The first argument, viz:—that of a departure from precedent, is to my mind a very puerile one. It is transparent that if this country remains in the old rut we will be very quickly overshadowed by the bold enterprise and modern methods of the other Powers. If we have followed certain antiquated practices in the past, does it follow that we must perpetuate them? The dishonourable and dishonest land legislation in Ireland has been a very distinct departure from precedent.

It is notorious that our merchant service suffers acutely from obsolete and absurd laws and regulations. We do absolutely nothing in keeping pace with the times. In this matter we pursue our fine old-crusted conservatism to the end, and, if we continue to do so, before long we shall find where it is leading us to. We are certainly not tied to precedent, and there is nothing whatever to prevent the departure of His Majesty's Government from it in the present instance. To come to the second argument, as to the United Kingdom having only the same representation at the congress as other maritime Powers, I may say that from a superficial point of view it might appear to be a very forcible one. But it is plain to see that representation according to tonnage would mean that the representatives of the United Kingdom would swamp the whole conference, and we would never get the smaller maritime Powers to agree to this.

The mere fact of England sending a representative to the Belgian Conference does not in any way commit this country to anything or anybody. It is simply encouraging an object of which everybody is desirous, namely, a unification of the shipping laws of the different maritime nations. His Majesty's Government are not bound to follow the decisions of a conference simply because they had a representative there. They need not pledge themselves in the slightest. After all, we may safely turn to the different shipping authorities who have the most at stake. We find that, in the face of all the arguments presented by the Government, the International Maritime Conference at Liverpool has recently carried unanimously the following resolution—

> "That the representatives of the British shipowners, merchants, and underwriters attending this conference are of opinion that in the interests of the international commerce of this country it is of the first importance that His Majesty's Government should be represented at the International Conference convened by the Government of Belgium to consider the draft codes relating to collisions at sea and salvage, and that the secretaries are respectfully requested to submit a copy of this resolution to His Majesty's Government."

The representative character of this conference may be gathered when I inform your Lordship that it consisted of representatives of the Incorporated chamber of commerce of Liverpool, the International Law Association, the General Council of the Bar, London, the chambers of commerce of Paris, London, Liverpool, and other places, the Liverpool Steam Shipowners' Association, the Incorporated Law Society of Liverpool, the London Steam Shipowners' Association, the London Steam Shipowners' Mutual Insurance Association, the Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Company, the Institute of London Underwriters' Association, the Liverpool Average Adjusters' Association, the United Steam Shipowners' Association, the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, the North of England Steam Shipowners' Association, the Alliance Marine Insurance Company, and other eminent shipping authorities.

Mr. Justice Phillimore, speaking on one occasion at Antwerp, said—

> "The attitude of the British Government is not only churlish, but may even seem ridiculous, when one recollects that the draft treaty on salvage embodies the English law without substantial, I believe even without formal, modification; while there are only three modifications of English law in the draft treaty on collision, and only one of these is likely to give rise to dispute."

I do not hesitate to say that by declining to nominate a representative at the Belgian Maritime Conference His Majesty's Government are flying in the face of public opinion. This House is supposed to present a true and honest reflex of public opinion, which, after all, is the supreme law. The maintenance of our present attitude simply means that we are acting as a drag on the wheels of progress, and if we remain where we are, we can relegate a unification of the maritime laws of nations to the Greek Kalends.

In moving the Resolution which stands in my name it is under a sense that it is our duty to not only listen to public opinion but to give effect to it when we see that, as in the present instance, opinion emanates from those who really know and who are both unanimous and emphatic. I trust to hear from the noble Marquess that, as a result of mature consideration, His Majesty's Government have decided to nominate a representative. I might mention that it is not only shipowners' and shipping lawyers' views I am quoting, for I have been urged to bring this matter forward by the Merchant Service Guild as one calculated to benefit the interests of our merchant service. I beg to move the Motion standing in my name.

Moved to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that, in the interests of British shipping, His Majesty's Government should ensure that this country should be represented at the International Conference on Shipping Law about to be held in Belgium to consider the draft codes relating to collisions at sea and salvage."—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

*LORD ALVERSTONE: My Lords, before the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs replies, I wish to say a word or two upon this subject, as it is one in which I have for a great many years taken considerable interest; and I desire to do so the more because I must dissociate myself from some of the arguments used by the noble Lord. I cannot agree that the previous refusal of the Governments of the Queen and His Majesty to take part as a Government in an international conference has been due to the worse form of conservatism; nor do I agree with Mr. Justice Phillimore that the attitude of the British Government has been churlish or prompted by other than the best feeling. I know that there were very good reasons why Her late Majesty's Government could not take official part in congresses, as they might thereby be led into discussions which would not be to the best interests of the nation; but in the present position of matters I think things have somewhat changed.

The question of the incidence of liability in the matter of collision at sea, to say nothing of the second subject, that of salvage, has been attracting the attention of maritime nations for a considerable number of years, and it is the fact that the present uncertainty of the law—depending as it does in some cases where the vessel happens to be arrested, in some cases upon the place where the collision occurs, and in some cases upon the nationality of the ship—makes it impossible for owners of ships to know exactly what their liability is. There is therefore a very strong feeling among the maritime nations that the time has come when an attempt should be made to get something like uniformity in these matters. If that is admitted, it is, as the noble Lord said, of very great importance that the views of British shipping interests should be heard. Foreign nations are prepared to pay great attention to the attitude taken by British shipowners and British lawyers in this respect, and, therefore, I think, subject to what may be, I am sure, the wise decision of the noble Marquess and His Majesty's Government as regards the line which should be taken, that the question does merit serious consideration. I do not for a moment say that representation at the conference should be of an official character, but I think it is very desirable that whoever does go from this country to represent British interests at the Belgium Conference should be in touch with His Majesty's Government. I do not know whether the noble Marquess has yet received the resolutions that were passed after a most interesting discussion at the conference held in Liverpool a few days ago, over which Mr. Justice Kennedy presided, and the discussion at which was marked by moderation and a desire to introduce into any amendment of the law the best considerations both of policy and public utility, and by the wish that the view of Great Britain in this matter should be respected. I do not press the noble Marquess to give any pledge which he feels he cannot give, but I do trust that he will allow me to urge upon him my conviction that some step in the direction indicated in the noble Lord's Motion is required in the interests of British commerce and British shipping.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, it is almost superfluous for me to assure your Lordships that His Majesty's Government are well aware of the great importance of the subject to which this Motion has reference. The noble Lord who introduced it this evening mentioned a deputation which I had the honour of receiving at the Foreign Office. That deputation was one of the most representative and influential that ever waited upon a British Minister. It is perfectly true that we did not think it desirable that an official representative should be sent to the conference which sat last year, for the reason mentioned by the noble Lord. I found that there was a very strong feeling that, considering the magnitude of our shipping interests, there would be a certain amount of risk in allowing any official representatives sent to attend this conference on behalf of this country to commit us in any way as to the manner in which we might hereafter deal with this subject by legislation. That may have been, perhaps, excessive caution; but it was a feeling, I know, which was very widely entertained.

The position at present is this. The conference, I understand, suspended its sittings and is to meet again in September, and the Question which I presume I am asked is whether, when that conference reassembles, we shall take any part, official or unofficial, in its proceedings. In the meanwhile there has taken place another conference representative of our own shipping interests—I mean the conference held at Liverpool, to which the Lord Chief Justice referred. The resolution of that conference reached me only the day before yesterday. It is a short resolution, decidedly in favour of participation by this country. But beyond that resolution we have as yet received nothing from the Liverpool Conference. I think, therefore, we are entitled to ask that we should have a fuller opportunity of considering not only the resolution of the conference, but the account of its proceedings upon which that resolution was based.

I can assure both noble Lords who have spoken that we shall approach the consideration of the matter with an open mind. I think we may derive some encouragement from the knowledge that the draft codes dealing with the subjects of salvage and collision, which have, I understand, been approved by this conference, are both of them drawn upon lines which are very much in accord with the law which prevails in this country. I am afraid I must, in those circumstances, return a somewhat dilatory Answer to the Question of the noble Lord; but I can promise him that when we receive the fuller account of the proceedings of the Liverpool Conference, we shall examine them with the desire that the interests of this country may be represented, if not officially, at any rate in some adequate manner, at the subsequent meetings of the Belgian Conference.

LORD MUSKERRY: Under those circumstances, I ask your Lordships' permission to with draw my Motion.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

HORSE DISEASE IN IRELAND.

THE EARL OF MAYO rose, "To ask His Majesty's Government how many cases of epizootic lymphangitis have occurred amongst artillery horses and troop horses in Ireland; how have these cases been dealt with; and, if there is any truth in the report that horses suffering from the disease or coming from infected stables have been sold to the public, what measures have been taken to stop the spread of this disease."

The noble Lord said: My Lords, my reason for putting these Questions to His Majesty's Government is that this very dangerous horse disease has been introduced into Ireland by the artillery horses and troop horses that were brought back from South Africa at the conclusion of the war. The disease is very contagious, and, although there have been cases of recovery, the course generally adopted when a horse is attacked with this disease is to kill and bury it, and destroy all the harness and saddlery with which the horse has come in contact. Your Lordships will, therefore, understand how anxious we are in Ireland to know what steps the Army authorities, who are responsible for the introduction of this disease into Ireland, have taken to stamp it out. The disease has spread to civilian stables and the matter has become a really serious one. I hope we may hear from the noble Earl who will reply on behalf of the War Office that the disease has been stamped out, at all events in the stables over which they have control.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of DONOUGHMORE): My Lords, in reply to the Questions put to me by the noble Earl I have to say that there have been thirty-seven cases of epizootic lymphangitis among Army horses in Ireland. Of that number thirty-five horses were destroyed, and two were cured. I am informed that no horses from infected stables have been sold to the public within six months of the occurrence of the last case in the unit attacked. The period of six months was arrived at after considerable discussion amongst those who have had experience of the disease in South Africa, as affording security. I believe it is true that the disease is spreading in Ireland.

THE EARL OF MAYO: Amongst Army horses?

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: No, we have had no case in the Army since October, 1904, and I am sure my noble friend will regard that as very satisfactory. We have opportunities in the Army of dealing much more drastically with these cases when they occur than is possible in civilian stables, and this, I think, is responsible for the fact that we have had no case in Ireland since October, 1904. The procedure we followed has been accurately described by my noble friend. All horses in contact—that is to say, in the same unit as any of the horses affected—were kept entirely apart, and, with the exception of the two that we were able to cure, the horses suffering from the disease were all destroyed. I hope my noble friend will accept the assurance that we are fully alive to the dangers of this disease, not only in Ireland but in the whole of the United Kingdom, and that most drastic measures are at once applied when any case comes to our notice.

EARL CARRINGTON: This disease of epizootic lymphangitis is what is known as "the horse-disease" in South Africa, and I should like to ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary whether any warning was sent from South Africa to His Majesty's Government as to the danger of bringing these horses back to this country.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: I presume the noble Earl means any recent warning. I am not aware of any, but I shall be glad to make inquiries. The noble Earl knows that our usual practice is not to move horses about. A cavalry regiment coming home from South Africa would not bring its horses with it, but would be provided with fresh horses on its arrival.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I should like to ask the noble Earl or any other member of His Majesty's Government whether any steps, and, if so, what steps, have been taken to prevent the spread of this disease in civilian stables.

THE EARL OF MAYO: I can inform the noble Lord opposite that the Department of Agriculture in Ireland has issued an Order, which I shall be happy to show to him, containing instructions how to deal with the disease and prevent its spreading, and I think the same thing has been done by the Board of Agriculture in this country.

The subject then dropped.

CRIMINAL CASES (RESERVATION OF POINTS OF LAW) BILL [H.L.].

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*EARL RUSSELL: My Lords, this Bill was introduced to meet the recommendation of the Beck Commission. Your Lordships are probably aware that there is a considerable body of opinion in favour of the establishment of a larger Court of Criminal Appeal; but, recognising that this Bill was introduced simply to meet that specific point, I did not take any part in the earlier discussions. The Bill, however, has been considerably amended since it was introduced, and I notice a very curious provision in it of which I should like to have some explanation. In Clause 2 of the Bill, as now printed, it is provided that—

> "The Court hearing and determining a question of law with respect to which a case is stated under the Crown Cases Act, 1848, whether in pursuance of this Act or otherwise, shall, in addition to the powers given to them by that Act, have power to order the retrial of the case—"

So far I have no objection to the clause. But then it proceeds—

> "and may also order that any conviction or judgment shall stand, if they consider that no miscarriage of justice has, in point of fact, occurred, notwithstanding that they are of opinion that the question of law should have been decided in favour of the person convicted."

I am bound to say that that seems to me rather a strong order, because, if I understand those words correctly, they mean that this Court of Criminal Appeal may say in one breath that a person has been wrongfully convicted from a strictly technical legal point of view, and in the same breath may say that, though not legally convicted, he is at the same time to be punished. The effect of those words has, perhaps, not been fully considered.

There is another aspect of the clause which I think can scarcely have occurred to those who drafted that provision, and it is this: that the wrongful conviction of a person will depend upon whether he is tried in the first instance by a Judge who knows the law or by one who does not know the law. If he is tried by a Judge who does know the law the Judge will rule that the evidence cannot be admitted, and the prisoner will escape conviction; but if he is tried by a Judge who does not know the law, that Judge may wrongfully admit some irregularity at the trial, and the prisoner may, in consequence, be convicted; and in that case the Court of Appeal can, under this clause, allow the conviction to stand although the conviction arose through the Judge making a mistake in law. I do not think the anomalous effect of this provision has been fully considered.

I should also like a little explanation of the words "miscarriage of justice." The clause provides that the Court may order that any conviction or judgment shall stand if they consider that no miscarriage of justice has, in point of fact, occurred. I should have thought that to a lawyer a miscarriage of justice meant an illegal conviction. If it means in the popular sense of the term that a man ought to be punished, although not legally guilty of the particular thing for which he was tried, I do not see why you should not give that power also to the Court of First Instance. I think these words introduce what might become a rather dangerous practice, and one which might lead to rather unfortunate results, and I should be glad to hear what explanation or what justification there is for them.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, the explanation is very simple. In both the civil and criminal Courts it has been the subject of grave animadversion that some technical objection outside the real moral merits of the cases has decided a case the wrong way. In respect of civil procedure, since 1873 it has been recognised and enacted that wherever the Court is of opinion that justice in its broadest sense has been done, notwithstanding some technical irregularity, the decision ought not to be set aside on the ground of some mistake which did not affect the real justice of the case. This system has worked with extreme efficiency in civil cases, and when the measure was introduced for the purpose of aiding persons who were before a criminal tribunal it was pointed out that if the Court was invested with the power of inquiring into every one of these cases, and if they should be of opinion that some question which really did not affect the merits of the case one way or another had been wrongly decided, without some provision of this kind they would be compelled to allow a criminal to escape from punishment, although he might be guilty. Where, therefore, there had been no miscarriage of justice in the ordinary and popular sense of the word it would be undesirable to allow a technical error to disturb the due course of justice. That is the meaning of the clause. I think that the object sought to be attained is a right one.

LORD ALVERSTONE: My Lords, this provision has been most carefully considered by the Judges of the King's Bench who have to administer the criminal law in assize towns. The Judges are unanimously of opinion that some such clause as this is absolutely necessary. I would cite by way of illustration the recent trial of a hotel manageress for fraud, and owing to a technical misdirection on a minor point of law by the chairman of quarter sessions the conviction had to be set aside. In more than one case the Judges have been satisfied that there has been no real miscarriage of justice at all, and it is felt that if this state of things is not to become part of the practice it is absolutely necessary that, if there is some minor point to argue which has nothing to do with the real merits of the case, the Judges should have the power to say that it is not necessary to have a new trial, thereby saving expense and delay, and preventing a miscarriage of justice.

The Lord Chancellor explained that the Amendments standing in his name were of a purely technical character. They were put down originally for Standing Committee, but as no sufficient explanation of them was forthcoming at the time he declined to move them. He now begged to move their insertion.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 6, page 3, line 4, to insert the following sub-sections: (3) The provisions of this Act relating to legal aid on the hearing of a case stated shall not apply to Ireland. (4) Rules of Court made under Section 61 of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland), 1877, may regulate generally the practice and procedure under this Act in Ireland.' "—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 7, page 3, line 6, to leave out from the word 'may' to the word 'be' in line 8."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at a quarter past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 30th June, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock,

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—

Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [Lords]; Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords]; County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords]; Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Great Northern Railway Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Highland Railway Bill. Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP L).

The Deputy-Chairman informed the House, That the Committee on Group L of Private Bills, not being appointed to meet until Thursday next, the parties promoting the Littlehampton Urban District Council Bill [Lords], which was set down for consideration on the first day of the meeting of the Committee, had appeared before him and proved that the evidence of William Beldam, solicitor, Littlehampton, was essential to their case; and that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House.

Ordered, That the said William Beldam do attend the Committee on Group L of Private Bills upon Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Great Western Railway (New Railways) Bill, with Amendments.

PETITIONS.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF CLOSING).

Petition from Tintwistle, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS).

Petition from Battersea, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.

Copy presented, of Eighty-third Report of the Commissioners, dated 29th June, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 221.]

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

Copy presented of Forty-seventh Report of the Board of Superintendence, with Appendices, for the year 1904–5 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1904. Part II. Civil Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Scotch Congested Districts Board's Apprenticing Scheme for Boys.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state what progress has been made by the Congested Districts Board with the scheme for apprenticing boys to trades; will he state how many boys have been apprenticed; and from what districts they come.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) Of 100 applications received forty-one boys have been offered places. Several of these have refused, and others have not yet finally intimated their decision. Twenty-two have actually started work, and come from the following localities:—

Six from Barra;
Three from South Uist;
One from North Uist;
One from Harris;
Four from Ross (Mainland);
Five from Ross (Lewis);
One from Sutherland.

Sixteen Lewis boys have been offered situations, and six have accepted.

Disease of Beech Trees.

MR. ALLHUSEN (Hackney, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been drawn to the prevalence of beech disease (cryptococcus fagi) in England and Scotland; and whether he will take steps to inform owners of beech woods of the best methods of arresting its progress.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) The disease to which my hon. friend directs attention is, I am sorry to say, widely distributed throughout England, and it has occurred in many parts of Scotland. We have during the past few days published a leaflet on the subject, copies of which I shall be glad to place at his disposal. We shall take steps to circulate the leaflet as widely as possible. It sets out in detail the remedial measures which can with advantage be adopted.

Erection of Flight of Wooden Steps in Front of Admiralty Buildings.

MR. ALLHUSEN: To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will explain why a flight of wooden steps and railings has been erected on the west front of the new Admiralty buildings instead of a light iron staircase and railing, which would have been less noticeable; and whether the advice of a competent architect is taken in all cases where it is found necessary to interfere with the architectural features of Government buildings.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) Temporary wooden steps have been erected because they can be put up and removed with less difficulty than iron. The Answer to the second paragraph is in the affirmative.

Disturbances at Odessa—Protection of British Lives and Property.

Mr. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information which he can communicate to the House as to the steps which are being taken to safeguard the lives and property of British residents in Odessa and to protect British shipping in that port.

(*Answered by Earl Percy.*) His Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa is in communication with the local authorities, who have shown themselves desirous of doing all in their power to protect British and other foreign residents. It is believed that no one has been hurt on board British ships, and the Consul-General has been informed that the masters are at liberty to move their vessels outside the port if they think it necessary. His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, who is in telegraphic communication with the Consul-General, has been informed by the Russian Government that a portion of the Black Sea Squadron has been ordered to proceed to Odessa. His Majesty's Government think it unnecessary to make any further representations to the Russian Government, who are clearly taking all the measures in their power for the protection of life and property and the restoration of order.

Labourers' Cottages in the Fermoy, Mallow, and Mitchelstown Rural Districts.

Mr. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of labourers' cottages built and in course of construction in the rural districts of Fermoy, Mallow, and Mitchelstown, respectively, the amount of loans sanctioned, and the rate per pound required to raise the amount of the annual instalments in repayment of loans in each rural district.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) These particulars are contained in a Return presented to Parliament last year (Parliamentary Paper, No. 188, of 1904). No further loans for these districts have since been sanctioned.

SHIPOWNERS' NEGLIGENCE (REMEDIES) BILL.

Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said the Amendment he moved was a formal and somewhat technical one, but one which was required in order to make the Bill as complete and perfect as possible. As one who had supported the Bill both on the Second Reading and in Grand Committee he might say that so far from desiring to detract from it in any way he believed it was calculated to remove an existing injustice from the people of our own country, and to effect equality of treatment as between British and foreign subjects. The Amendment was to add after the word "injuries," for which power of arrest was given by the Bill, the words "including fatal injuries." The Bill was one which was somewhat novel in form. It did not deal with an action for any injuries, and in that sense had no enacting power whatever. What it did was to give power of arrest of a vessel on board of which, and owing to the neglect of the owners or master or crew of which, an injury had taken place, the removal of which vessel might prevent the injured person from reaping the fruit of an action, even after admitted and proved negligence. That was an undoubted improvement of the law, but they had to remember the old English principle that a remedy for a personal injury died with the person. It was quite true that under Lord Campbell's Act there would be power on the part of representatives of a deceased person who had been fatally injured to bring an action, and the question arose whether it would not be better, as it was necessary to alter the common law in order to enable a deceased's representatives to sue, that arrest should equally take place on the application of the representatives of a deceased person who died in consequence of injuries received. In dealing with this matter it should be remembered that the word "injuries" in the clause was not used in the technical legal sense, but in the popular sense, and the word would mean personal injuries. Injuries after death were of course no longer personal, and therefore it might be open to argument that they were not technically and strictly within the letter of the Bill. All he desired was to take care that the remedy given, in the case of a person who had suffered death, to his representatives under Lord Campbell's Act should be given them with regard to the right to arrest a vessel so that it might never come to pass that, after bringing an action and succeeding, the fruits of the judgment which, in the case of death, were all-important to the surviving members of a man's family should not be reaped.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 6, after the word 'injuries' to insert the words 'including fatal injuries.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said the promoters of the Bill were equally anxious with the hon. Member to support any question of fatal injuries. They thought that was absolutely covered by Lord Campbell's Act, but, if his hon. friend laid stress upon it, they were perfectly willing to accept his Amendment.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) thought the words were unnecessary, but might be accepted.

Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said in his opinion these words were unnecessary because the general term "injury" included "fatal injury." Furthermore, in the Workmen's Compensation Act the same words were used, and if "personal injury" did not include "fatal injury" under this Bill it did not include it under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) said he did not think the Amendment was necessary, but as the point had been raised it had better be accepted. It would not do any harm.

Question put, and agreed to.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT said the object in this was just the same as in the case of the last Amendment. The Bill spoke of injuries arising from the negligence of the owner, officers, or crew. This was what might be called positive in its enactment, but there was also something which was negative and which ought equally to be contemplated, and that was an injury arising from the defective condition of the ship or its apparel or equipment. Perhaps such an omission might be held to be within the terms "negligence" or "default," but it was as well to express what was so frequently a cause of injury and compensation.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 10, after the word 'thereof' to insert the words 'or of any defect in the ship or its apparel or equipment.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir HARRY SAMUEL said he thought they would apply almost the same remarks to this Amendment as to the last. He need not make any objection to it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. LUKE WHITE (Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose) said he moved this Amendment in order to bring before the House and the Attorney-General the question of the machinery by which the principles of the measure should be carried out. Under the clause as it now stood great delay and difficulty might arise as to the question of the amount of security, and those questions arising under the clause as it now stood would be left open as a roving power for parties to apply to any Court of record in England or

Ireland. If his Amendment were adopted the process of the Admiralty Court would be adopted as in the case of a claim for wages, and this process was well understood and was simple. His only object in moving the Amendment was to bring under consideration of the House the machinery to carry out the object and principle of the measure. They were all agreed as to the principle of making a foreign shipowner liable for personal injury, but in bringing into effect a clause to carry out that principle they must remember that this measure, if carried, should be made as effective and at the same time as simple as possible. It might be a measure which other countries would adopt in regard to British ships, and they ought to take special care that every provision was fair and equitable and that the machinery set up was effective for the purpose and at the same time simple. He trusted the Amendment which he now moved would be carried.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 12, to leave out from the word 'thereof' to end of clause, and insert the words 'the person or persons entitled to recover such damages shall in England have the like remedies by warrant for arrest of the ship in the Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice, or in any County Court having Admiralty jurisdiction, as if the claim for damages were a claim for wages, and such remedies shall be subject to such provisions as to bail, entering a caveat, and otherwise as are applicable to proceedings in rem for recovery of wages, and shall in Ireland have the like remedies under the Court of Admiralty (Ireland) Act, 1867, and the Court of Admiralty (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1876, and otherwise, and subject to such provisions as aforesaid as if the claim for damages were a claim for wages.'"—(*Mr. Luke White.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'consignee,' in line 19, stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press this Amendment, because if it were pressed and were successful it would involve the loss of the Bill. This was in substance, although not in form, a proposal to return to the idea of the Bill when it went to Committee. Consultations were held in Committee and the result was that the Bill assumed the form in which it had come back to this House. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would not think it necessary to ask the House to return to the idea on which the Bill was framed—an idea which, after careful consideration, was departed from. He did not think the difficulties apprehended in the working of the Bill as it now stood would arise.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES also desired to appeal to his hon. friend not to proceed with this Amendment. Many consultations took place, and those supporting the Bill thought this was the best machinery.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said he was in such sympathy with the hon. Gentleman in desiring the intervention of the County Courts, if possible, that he brought in a Bill on those very lines, but on consideration he had come to the conclusion that the problem, which was a difficult one, of allowing arrest and yet limiting the inconvenience of it, would be greatly exaggerated by adapting to that purpose the County Court system. There was but one Admiralty Court, but there were ten or twenty County Courts having Admiralty jurisdiction, and the difficulty was that if a vessel left the jurisdiction of a Court—if, say, she were to move from Hull to Cardiff—she would be liable to arrest, therefore a vessel changing ports, whether British or foreign, would be liable to arrest, which would be inconvenient, complex, and costly.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 19, after the word 'consignee' to insert the words 'or agent.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY suggested that if those words were to be inserted they should be inserted after the word "owners."

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT thanked the learned Attorney-General for that suggestion. The word "agent" was not used in the general sense of the term, but as ship's agent, and its proper place undoubtedly would be next to "owners."

The insertion of those words would greatly limit the inconvenience under the Bill.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I do not think this is necessary, but I am sure it will do no harm.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said that when in Committee he proposed a Motion similar to the Amendment he was about to move. It was generally agreed that the proposal was in itself a fair one, but the Attorney-General expressed the view that it would be better dealt with in the Workmen's Compensation Bill. That Bill, however, had not yet been read a second time in the House, nor did it contain any provision on this particular point. As the fate of that Bill was altogether uncertain he submitted that it was manifestly desirable that the matter should be dealt with in the measure now under consideration. The object of the Bill was to place the foreign shipowner in the same position as the British shipowner, and the Bill doubtless achieved its object so far as the workman was concerned. But the Bill did nothing for the employer who had satisfied the claim of the workman under the Compensation Act, and who, therefore, had the right to take over the claim of the workman against the foreign ship. Why should this be? The mere fact that a man was an employer did not take away from him the elementary right to claim justice. Under the Compensation Act of 1897 an injured workman could either sue the owner of the foreign ship for damages or claim compensation from his immediate employer. The Amendment did not interfere with that option. All it did was to enable an employer who had satisfied the claim of the workman under the Compensation Act to stand in the workman's shoes and prevent the foreign ship from escaping responsibility. It would injure no one. In fact the workman would be rather benefited, because an employer, knowing he had his remedy against the foreign ship, would be better able to make a fair settlement with the workman. The proposal was supported by the Shipowners' Parliamentary Committee, which represented nine-tenths of the shipping of the United Kingdom, and as it no more than completed the Bill he hoped the House would accept it.

Sir Albert Rollit.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, after line 25, to insert the words '(2) The words "person applying" in this section shall include an employer who has paid compensation or against whom proceedings for compensation have been taken under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, or any Act amending the same, and who alleges that he is entitled to be indemnified under such Act or Acts by the owner of the ship.'"—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said his hon. friend was correct in saying that when this matter was considered in Grand Committee he suggested it might be better dealt with by the Workmen's Compensation Bill, but as matters now stood he thought it better that the present Bill should be made complete in itself. The case was certainly one which called for a remedy. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act a stevedore might be liable to a workman in his employ who had been injured owing to defective tackle on a ship, and who might sue the owner of the ship for damages. But if he took the more direct remedy of claiming against his immediate employer under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the stevedore would be entitled to all the workman's rights of action against the owner of the ship. Under these circumstances it was only reasonable that, when giving this improved process, the immediate employer should be given the same remedies against the owner of the ship that the workman would have had had he proceeded against the owner instead of against his immediate employer. The Amendment, however, would hardly do in its present form. The section referred to liabilities and detention "in respect of injuries." The action of the stevedore against the owner of the ship would not be in respect of injury in any ordinary sense of the term; it would be an action in respect of the statutory liability of the stevedore to compensate the workman and the right which the statute conferred upon him to have recourse to the owner by way of indemnity. He therefore suggested that the hon. Member should not press his Amendment at this point, but move to add at the end of line 9 in Clause 1 the following sub-section—

"Where an employer has paid compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, to a workman who would have been entitled to the remedies given by this section had he proceeded against the owner of the ship for damages instead of against the employer for compensation, and the employer claims to be entitled to be indemnified by the owners of the ship under Section 6 of the said Act, the employers for the purpose of enforcing that indemnity shall have the same remedies under this section as the workman would have had to enforce his claim for damages."

Those words would meet the case, and, if the hon. Member would accept them, he would recommend the House to insert them as a new sub-section at the proper place.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR accepted the suggestion of the Attorney-General, and asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said the Amendment he was about to move raised the question of what was to happen if, after a vessel had been seized, the owners abandoned her and nothing further was done by them. Under the Bill as drafted the process would apparently be that upon complaint of alleged injuries the Judge of any Court of record might issue an order directing an officer of Customs to detain the ship until such time as the owners had given satisfaction in respect of the injuries or security to abide the event of legal proceedings. If security were given the Bill provided that the person giving the security should be the defendant for the purpose of legal proceedings; but if no money were paid or security given there would be no defendant, and presumably, therefore, no legal proceedings. What he desired to know was whether under Clause 1 it inevitably followed that if a vessel was seized and the owners abandoned her the vessel could be sold without further trouble or undue delay to give satisfaction for the injuries inflicted. If that was not clear, he thought his Amendment should go forward. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 4, after Sub-section (2), to insert the words '(3) In the event of the owner, master, or consignee of a detained ship not making satisfaction in respect of the injuries, or within a reasonable time giving security as aforesaid, His Majesty's Courts shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any legal proceeding that may be instituted in respect of the injuries and to give judgment against such owner, master, or consignee as if he had been served with legal process, and the ship so detained shall be made answerable for the claim and for the satisfaction of any judgment obtained thereon.'"—*(Mr. Austin Taylor.)*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the Amendment provided for a case which would hardly ever happen. The event contemplated was that the owner, rather than give the security asked for, would abandon the ship altogether. That was an extremely improbable thing. They could not have these proceedings without arranging for service or substituted service. The case which the hon. Member wished to provide for was one which would not occur probably more than once in fifty years, and by attempting to provide for that case they would land themselves into all those difficulties which formed the subject of a protracted discussion between himself and the gentlemen interested in this Bill. Under these circumstances he hoped his hon. friend would not, by pressing this Amendment, endanger the passage of the measure.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 8, to leave out the words 'expression,' 'harbour,' 'has,' and insert the words 'expressions' 'port' and 'harbour' have."—*(Mr. Charles McArthur.)*

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: If the hon. Member looks at the Merchant Shipping Act he will find that the word "port" is included in "harbour." The Amendment will do no harm, and therefore I accept it.

Question put, and negatived.

Words inserted.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT said there were many ships owned by corporations or as single-ship corporations under the Joint Stock Acts, and the object of the Amendment was that in case of a body corporate the principal place of business should be held to be the residence, and therefore the Act should not apply, with any inconveniences it might carry with it.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 98, at the end, to add the words 'And for the purposes of this Act, if the principal place of business of a body corporate shall be in the United Kingdom, the owner shall be deemed to reside therein.' "—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he agreed that some provision was wanted for the case of corporations, but he would suggest a slight variation of the words which had been proposed. He wished to point out that many of the big lines had their offices abroad, and therefore their principal place of business would not be in the United Kingdom. For these reasons he suggested the addition of the following words—" and if the owner of a ship is a corporation, it shall for the purpose of this Act be deemed to reside in the United Kingdom if it has an office in the United Kingdom at which service of writ can be effected."

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT asked leave to withdraw his Amendment and said he was willing to accept the words suggested by the Attorney-General.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 9, at the end, to add the words—'And if the owner of a ship is a corporation it shall for the purpose of this Act be deemed to reside in the United Kingdom if it has an office in the United Kingdom at which service of a writ can be effected.' "

Sir Robert Finlay

Amendment agreed to.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said his hon. friend had called attention to the fact that some hardship might arise under this sub-section in a case in which a workman commenced proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act against a stevedore, and before those proceedings had come to an issue and compensation had been paid the foreign ship had sailed away. There was a difficulty in introducing words for the purpose of meeting that case owing to the fact that, under the Workmen's Compensation Act, Section 6, it was only when compensation had been paid under the Act that the stevedore would have the right of indemnity against the shipowner. That question deserved consideration, and it would be considered with a view to possible action in another place. He begged to move the following sub-section.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, to add as a new sub-section the words, 'Where an employer has paid compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, to a workman who would have been entitled to the remedy given by this section if he proceeded against the owners of the ship for damages instead of against his employer for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, and the employer claims to be entitled to be indemnified by the owner of the ship under Section 6 of the said Act, the employer for the purpose of enforcing that indemnity shall have the same remedy under this section as the workman would have had to enforce his claim for damages.' "—(*The Attorney-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR asked if he would be in order in proposing the Amendment which, unfortunately, a few moments ago he failed to take a division upon as a new clause.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The House has already pronounced an opinion upon it.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee) considered.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton): said the words he now proposed were in the Bill originally and they were struck out by the Grand Committee. If it was for the good of the community it might be advisable to take some restrictive steps, but he did not think that there was such a large amount of fraudulent trust to necessitate such a stringent measure as this. What was the effect first as regarded bankers and the general community. The effect of the Act would be to take away money which now stood in the trading and other banks and transfer it to the Bank of England [Cries of "No, no."] So far as he saw that would be the effect. According to Clause 11—

> "The Lord Chancellor, with the approval of the Treasury, may make rules for regulating the office of public trustee and carrying into effect this Act."

He was not aware that hitherto any money coming into the Court of Chancery could go to any bank other than the Bank of England, and he thought they might safely rely that money under the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery in future would naturally flow into that bank. He thought he might refer to the manner in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer received the Bill when it was brought forward. The right hon. Gentleman actually anticipated that the money coming into official hands would come under control in the same way as other funds—that on being transferred to the Court of Chancery and more or less to the Bank of England it would be invested in Consols and other securities which were all very well in their way.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E). I beg the hon. Member's pardon. I said nothing at all to support his contention.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER said he thought when the Bill was brought in the Chancellor of the Exchequer was rather pleased to have the assurance that there would be additional funds coming in in that way.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER said that at any rate it would be so. He thought the community generally were sufficiently aware of the difficulties now in the way of banking. Municipal authorities came into competition with the banks with their short loans and the high terms they were able to offer. With this large amount of trust money going out of the hands of the banks there would be a considerable diminution of their resources. As showing how serious that would be they had only to look back to the time of the South African War and remember to what an extent our balances indicated that we were indebted to foreign communities. A testator could provide in his will for the appointment of an accountant or solicitor to manage the affairs of the trust, and a definite direction could be given that there should be a regular audit of the transactions. This Bill would entirely override that, take away the direction of the testator, nullify the wishes of the testator, and place the whole control of the trust in the hands of the public trustee. He had watched with pleasure how officialism had been removed out of the transactions of trusts. They all knew pretty well how in the management of trusts one relative did not agree with another, and how, when an estate went into the Court of Chancery, the litigation was expensive. His experience and that of many other lawyers was that it was a very long time before the money came out of the Court of Chancery. It frequently happened that a testator thought he had left his children a comfortable income on which to live, but the children found when the estate came out of the Court of Chancery it was immensely diminished. He was glad to say that for some time, thanks to the ability of the Lord Chancellor and the legal profession, trusts had been administered in an easier way. There was now no necessity to put the whole of the estate in Court. Any small question could be brought up and dealt with at small expense. It was now proposed to take a retrograde step. They were now setting brother against brother, and enabling them to say that they would go to the public trustee. In that way they were going back to the process which for many years they had got out of. They ought to endeavour as far as possible to keep the management of trusts and settlements where they had it now. The Judicial Trustees Act of 1896 was a most valuable measure. It gave everyone the right to have a judicial trustee.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is really dealing with the whole question. He ought to confine himself to the particular clause.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER said he accepted that direction. He did not think this measure would be for the benefit of the community. They should carry out that form of administering estates which had been so well developed during the past few years. He hoped the House would accept the clause he now submitted. He was quite certain that it would render the Bill much more easy to work and much more palatable to the beneficiaries of trust estates. He begged to move.

A clause (Employment of solicitors and banks and accountants).

"In page 4, after Clause 10, to insert the following clauses:—'Where a testator, settler, or other creator of any trust directs or authorises the employment of any particular solicitor or firm of solicitors or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, or where either the co-trustee of the public trustee, or the persons appearing to the public trustee to be for the time being entitled to the income of the trust, or if they are infants, their guardians, require the employment of any particular solicitor, or firm of solicitors, or bank or accountant, or firm of accountants, that solicitor, or firm of solicitors, or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, shall be employed as the solicitor or bank, or accountant to the trust, unless removed for good cause by the Court upon the application of the public trustee, or of any person appearing to the Court to be interested in the trust.

'Where it appears to the public trustee that any solicitor, or firm of solicitors, or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, has been ordinarily employed in matters connected with any trust he may, on the application or with assent of any of such persons as appear to him to be principally interested in the income of the trust, for the time being employ such solicitor, or firm of solicitors, bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, as the solicitor or bank or accountant to the trust. Where a solicitor or firm of solicitors or bank, or accountant or firm of accountants, is employed in pursuance of this clause the Consolidated Fund shall not be liable to meet any liability arising from any default of such persons or bank, and the public trustee shall not be deemed to have notice of any matter merely by reason of such persons or bank having had notice thereof.'"—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): Will the discussion of this new clause prevent the discussion of the clause of which the hon. Member for York has given notice?

*Mr. SPEAKER: I think it refers to the same matter, and if the House decides to reject this clause that would cover the clause standing in the name of the hon. Member for York.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said he thought the House had a right to know what this clause meant, because, with all respect to the hon. Gentleman, he did not think anyone knew at the present moment. This Bill was brought in for the purpose of enabling everybody, whether rich or poor, to have some public trustee, for whom Government funds should be answerable, to administer his property on his death, or to administer the trust. The necessity had arisen because of the lamentable frequency of robberies especially of poor people and small estates which had taken place and which had become a public scandal. Under these circumstances the House of Commons passed the Second Reading of the Bill without a word of criticism. Not only was the Bill on the preliminary stages, including the Motion to go into Committee for money purposes which was moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, passed without comment, but when it went to the Grand Committee there were very few Amendments and they were rapidly disposed of. There was one of this kind in the Grand Committee. Now when the Bill came back to the House there were twenty-one

Amendments. The Government were entitled to credit, and he hoped they would have it, for the attitude they had taken up in respect to this Bill which was one for the purpose of promoting honesty and not of promoting officialism, of preventing dishonesty and not for any purpose at all such as had been suggested on the other side of the House. Anybody who knew what the Bill was would think it very necessary. The public trustee might be employed, but nobody was compelled to employ him. Poor people, or families who might have few friends who would undertake the onerous duties of trustees, and especially poor people who had no educated friends, would have a safe person whom they could appoint as their trustee to carry out the trust safe from the system of robbery which had been going on.

What did the Amendment propose? It did in substance, as the hon. Gentleman truly said, represent what was in the Bill as originally introduced. He believed that was most erroneously accepted in order to try and placate the opposition of the Incorporated Law Society so far as the solicitors in this House were concerned, and also to placate the bankers. In the first place, as to the solicitors, what did this new clause propose? That when the creator of a trust directed or authorised the employment of any particular solicitor or firm of solicitors, then the public trustee must be compelled to employ them. Was there ever such a thing proposed in the House of Commons? That they should be and must be employed. And under what penalty? That any loss of money arising from the employment of that solicitor was actually not to be made good out of the Consolidated Fund! Thereby was destroyed the effectiveness of the proposal made in the Bill as to the appointment of a public trustee. If a man was induced to say in his will that the firm A or B might be employed as solicitors, then off went the security of the public funds. Was it credible that a proposal of that kind could be accepted by the House of Commons? He was not at all suggesting that the hon. Member opposite who moved the Amendment intended that; but he was sure the hon. Member would not dispute the proposition that he had made. The wonder was that anyone should have proposed or should support such an Amendment. The second part of the proposed clause said that the public trustee might employ any solicitor or firm of solicitors who had been ordinarily employed in matters connected with the trust, on the application or with the assent of such persons as appeared to him to be principally interested in the income of the trust. Then came the case of the bankers. But he stopped to add that there was to be a statutory right on the part of the solicitor or firm of solicitors to be employed, unless he or they were removed on good cause shown by the Court. The Court had to inquire and to be satisfied that there was some good cause for not employing that solicitor or firm of solicitors. They knew, unfortunately, that solicitors of the highest reputation had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment and struck off the roll of solicitors for malversation of trust funds; but he was very sorry to say that when that happened poor people who wished to put their affairs in trust did not know it. This proposed new clause to allow a solicitor or firm of solicitors to have a statutory claim to be employed in certain trust busines was a thing unheard of in English law.

Now, as regarded bankers, he remembered perfectly well that in the Registration of Titles Bill—another excellent Bill passed by the present Government—the bankers were unfortunately induced to come forward to raise objections to certain clauses in that Bill. As a matter of fact they did succeed in satisfying the legitimate wishes of the promoters of that Bill, and their wishes were met In regard to the proposal in this new clause the bankers stood in a different position from the solicitors. And for this reason, that they had nothing to say in the making of the trust, or in the permissive clauses of the will which were afterwards to acquire a compulsory character. In regard to cases of administration in bankruptcy of trust estates, he did not think that anyone wished that there should be any such restriction as that these funds should be deposited in the Bank of England. He had no responsibility, except that of a private Member, and he did not know whether or not some proposal might not be made to the effect that, in practice, the public trustee should continue to employ the local banker. But everyone was liable to failures. What he wished to point out was that bankers were on a different footing from solicitors. At the same time it seemed to him that anything of the kind proposed in this new clause was out of the question. They might just as well say that a doctor should have a statutory right to be called in in the case of the illness of one's children; or that a chemist should have a statutory right to claim the right of making up prescriptions, or that a groom or coachman or footman should have a statutory right to continued engagement. There was no ground whatever for this claim, and he felt no doubt that the Government would resist the acceptance of the Amendment.

*MR. EDMUND FABER (Hampshire, Andover) said that he had no desire to seek new privileges for bankers but only to protect rights they at present enjoyed. To take a case for example: a man who had banked for years with a country bank died and left two executors. In the ordinary course they would continue the account in the bank where it had been carried on not only for that man's life but for two or three generations. If the public trustee was appointed solely, or with others, what would happen? The public trustee had to carry on business according to rules laid down by the Lord Chancellor and the Treasury, and past experience convinced him that the Treasury would formulate rules making it necessary for the public official to take the account from the country bank and place it in the Bank of England. If might be said that the trustee was not bound to do this, but according to all experience he would do it, although there would be no interest on the account in the Bank of England while in the country bank interest would be accruing all the time. The effect of this transfer would be serious. In the last few years the big joint stock banks had been annexing the country banks and joining them to their London establishments, and it was found that these banks collected the money of depositors in the country and loaned it out not in the country but in London. The effect of the Bill would be exactly the same. It would collect money from the country banks and transfer it to London, and thus trade in the country would be crippled. Money was much wanted in the country, and country banks would not be doing their duty to themselves or their clients if they did not resist the transfer of money from the country to London. It had been said that the public trustee would run undue risk in continuing an account at a country bank, but was that so? As he understood the law, an executor or trustee keeping an account at a country bank would not be liable in the event of any accident to the bank, provided he had exercised due care. In any case the risk to the Consolidated Fund could not be a large one. He preferred a clause which he himself had put down, but, as he understood that was shut out he would support the Amendment.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said he hoped that some *via media* would be arrived at in this matter. No one could consider the Bill without realising that there was danger of official concentration and of depriving trusteeship of all kind of personal character. He believed that the personal element was very important. It was not necessary to utter suspicion about corruption. If the matter were left as it stood, the House might be quite sure that the money would be banked in the Bank of England, and that the public trustee would naturally employ some solicitor or accountant to whom he was accustomed. There was, in his opinion, danger in that. There was the deprival of personal interest; and there might, possibly, be delay, corruption, and inconvenience, such as they did away with in the old Bankruptcy Court. It might be said the matter was optional; but a person with a small interest in an estate might hand it over to the public trustee. That might occur as a threat. The House should not, in the circumstances, provide a concentration of officialism in London. There was a great deal in personality in such matters; and, if that view were not taken, many hon. Members would be obliged to oppose the Bill. He would be prepared to wreck the Bill rather than that the danger he had mentioned should exist.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said, as the promoter of the Bill, he desired to emphasise the fact that it passed its Second Reading unanimously. The Bill was carefully considered by the Grand Committee, and the clause now proposed was struck out because the House of Commons guaranteed the integrity of the trust funds. There was no desire to interfere with legitimate professional interests at all. He had no fault to find with his hon. friend, who had laid before the House valuable information as regarded banking; but the promoters of the Bill had no desire to interfere with provincial banking. The Solicitor-General had put an Amendment in this respect on the Paper which hon. Gentlemen would be well advised to accept. It met the whole case. As regarded solicitors the matter was on a different footing. He was as anxious as any hon. Gentleman to be as considerate as possible; and he had made certain propositions to the Committee which considered the matter which were rejected. The Paper was now crowded with Amendments which, if discussed, would render it impossible to pass the Bill. He was not an enemy of solicitors or of any other branch of the legal profession, but he represented the public who had suffered through a long series of years by misappropriations on the part of trustees. The Attorney-General recently stated that there had been sixty cases in recent years, involving a sum of £152,000; but there were many cases which did not come before the public at all. It was not the owners of large estates, but poor beneficaries who were the greatest losers in these matters, especially widows and orphans. It was incumbent on the House of Commons to find a remedy for such a disastrous state of affairs. To put a series of Amendments forward now was unfair to the House of Commons. If a *via media* were adopted, it should be one that would enable the Bill to be placed on the Statute-book.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir EDWARD CARSON, Dublin University) said that he had had the honour of being Solicitor-General for some five years, and he could only say that he knew of no Bill brought before the House in recent years that was more required than the present measure, and it would be a great loss if for any reason the opportunity of passing it was now missed. There was no greater loss caused to poor people than by the want of someone whom they could absolutely trust in the settlement of their affairs. There was no greater necessity. The number of letters he received addressed not to the Solicitor-General, but to the General Solicitor, bringing before him cases of a most harrowing character, where money had been altogether wasted either in costs or by misappropriation, often struck him as pathetic. This Bill was a remedy for that. Let the House keep that before their minds and not be led astray by the selfishness of any class. It was stated that under the Bill the various trust accounts would find their way into the Bank of England. No such idea ever entered the minds of those who had taken an interest in the Bill. It was never for a moment the idea that the official trustee should in any way act differently from an ordinary trustee, save that as a public official he was fully conscious of his obligations. When that objection came to his notice he put down an Amendment to the effect that it was not the intention of the Lord Chancellor to make any rule that all this money should be lodged in London banks. He put down an Amendment providing that the Lord Chancellor was to make rules—

> "As to the employment by the public trustee of any particular bankers who have been ordinarily employed by the persons creating the trust or otherwise in relation to the trust property."

If the House accepted that Amendment they might eliminate from the discussion any idea of creating a great official department concentrated in London. He would now pass from the case of the bankers; but he thought that hon. Gentlemen would see that the only proper way they could take in this matter was by rule, because they must have proper rules. They could not enact that a public trustee must employ a particular bank under all conditions.

Let them look for a moment at the question of the employment of a solicitor. He did not believe that any precedent could be found for putting into an Act of Parliament a compulsory power in relation to private profit that any particular individual should be employed either as a solicitor or in any other position. Why stop at a solicitor? Why not put in manager or agent of an estate, or, in the case of minors or infants who had been made wards in Chancery, why not put in doctor. What was the peculiar right of a solicitor in this matter? So far from having any peculiar rights in the interests of the public, he was, above all, the person who should not be specially mentioned in this matter. He would tell them why. A man went to the office of a solicitor for the purpose of making his will and the solicitor asked whether he might put his name in the will as solicitor to the trust. What was the result of that under this Amendment? It was a regular trap. Having appointed this man as solicitor to the trust and nominated the public trustee as executor of the will he lost all the benefit of the Act as regarded the Consolidated Fund being liable to make good the defaults or misappropriations of the trust. He would rather see the Bill wrecked than that a trap of this character should be held out to people. That was the first point. With regard to the second part of the Amendment, by the very act of the public trustee in appointing a person originally engaged in connection with the trust they took away all the benefits of the Act. If the public trustee did such a thing as that he would be doing what was in fact an act of misfeasance on his part. It would be the duty of the public trustee never to employ either a solicitor or banker connected with the trust, because by so doing he would be taking away the only security he could give against misappropriation.

*Mr. EDMUND FABER said that if the word "shall" was substituted for "may" in Clause 11, line 2, he would carry the opposition no further, taking into consideration the words which the Solicitor-General had put down for consideration at a later stage enabling a public trustee to continue to employ the bankers already employed in a trust.

Sir EDWARD CARSON assented and said he only desired to say one more word, which was this: that this was by no means a compulsory Bill and they would have difficulty enough when the Bill passed. Nobody need employ the public trustee, and he was afraid that a great many solicitors would prevent his being employed, but at all events this left to the people that opportunity, because what happened in thousands of cases was that when a man went to make his will the solicitor said, "Who is to be the trustee?" and the man making the will said, "I do not know;" and the solicitor said, "Shall I be?" and his name was put in. He knew of nothing that had been more disastrous to the public than the system prevailing in many offices of the solicitor's name being put into every will and settlement that came into the office as trustee of the fund, with a clause that he should be entitled to charge legal profits. He remembered one case where an ex-president of the Incorporated Law Society and chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of that society had been for twenty-five years insolvent although he held the highest position in his profession. In every will and settlement that came into his office he put in himself as trustee, and for twenty-five years he lived in luxury on the misappropriation of trust moneys. There was, in his opinion, an absolute necessity for this Bill, and he hoped that the House would not persist in an Amendment which might cause its withdrawal.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, being returned—

Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (See page 625.)

Question again proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. SLACK (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said that in proposing the Amendment standing in his name he was actuated by a genuine desire to improve the Bill. The proposed new clause followed the lines laid down in the Charitable Trusts Act, 1853, and simply provided that in all cases where a public trustee was a joint trustee with any other person the whole of the trust funds should be invested exclusively in the name of the public trustee, so that any fear of loss of capital in connection with the trust would be absolutely avoided; that the public trustee should permit his co-trustee to have the management of the lands included in the trust; that power should be given for an order to be made to transfer to the public trustee the trust funds as well as placing in his hands the lands belonging to the trust; that the public trustee should allow the dividends of the trust to be received by his co-trustee; and that no sale of any portion of the trust property should be made without the consent of the public trustee. A similar arrangement had worked admirably in connection with charities, and he felt certain it would would work equally well in connection with this Bill. He did not think the promoters of the Bill had any desire to remove from the administration and management of trust estates those who were joined with the public trustee as trustees or executors. The acceptance of the proposed new clause would greatly strengthen the measure, and tend to its being more largely adopted than would otherwise be the case, because it would give to the public an assurance that the trust funds were perfectly safe, and to private trustees, if they were willing and able to act, some control over the management and administration of the trust estates. He begged to move—

A clause (Vesting of lands in public trustee)—

"In page 2, after Clause 3, to insert the following clause:—In any case where (a) The public trustee is appointed (whether by the Court or otherwise and whether as an original or new trustee) to be trustee of any will, settlement, or other instrument or to perform any trust or duty belonging to a class which he is authorised by any general order under this Act to accept; or (b) Probate of a will or letters of administration are granted to the public trustee; or (c) The estate of a deceased person has been transferred to the public trustee for administration jointly with any other person or corporation aggregate or sole, then and in such case the several provisions following shall apply and have effect (that is to say):—(1) If sufficient cause is shown, a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court, on an application by or on behalf of a private trustee or a beneficiary, may, in his discretion, order that any lands or any term, estate, or interest in lands subject to the trusts of such will, settlement, or instrument, or to which such trust or duty relates, or forming part of the estate of the testator or intestate or of the estate so transferred to the public trustee for administration jointly with such person or corporation as aforesaid shall be vested in the public trustee alone, and thereupon the same shall vest in the public trustee and his successors for all the estate and interest jointly holden by the public trustee and such other person or corporation without any conveyance or assurance thereof; and no such vesting order shall take effect in respect of any copyhold land without the consent of the lord of the manor, and such Judge may direct such periodical or other payment as such Judge may think fit to be made to the lord of the manor in compensation for fines or other profits which would have become due upon death or admittance of tenants; (2) Unless a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court shall on the application of a private trustee or a beneficiary by order at any time otherwise direct, and subject to any such order the public trustee shall, whether any such vesting order as aforesaid shall have been made or not, be deemed a bare trustee, and shall permit such other person or corporation as aforesaid to have the possession, management, and control of such lands, or term, estate, or interest in lands as aforesaid and the application of the income thereof as if the same had been vested in them; (3) If sufficient cause is shown a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court on an application by or on behalf of a private trustee or a beneficiary may in his direction order that any securities or other personal property or effects subject to the trusts of such will or settlement, or to which such trust or duty relates, or forming part of the estate of the testator or intestate or of the estate transferred to the public trustee for administration jointly with such person or corporation as aforesaid, shall be transferred to or deposited with the public trustee alone; (4) Unless a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court shall on the application of a private trustee or a beneficiary by order at any time otherwise direct, and subject to any such order the public trustee shall allow the dividends, interest, or income of such securities, personal estate, or effects until the same shall have been transferred or deposited with him alone to be received by such other person or corporation as aforesaid, and if and when the same shall have been transferred to or deposited with him alone shall, without any fee or charge pay or cause to be paid such dividends, interest, or income to such other person or corporation as aforesaid, or as they shall in writing direct; (5) Whether such lands, or term estate, or interest in lands as aforesaid shall have been vested in, or such securities, personal estate, or effects as aforesaid, shall have been transferred to or deposited with, the public trustee alone or not, no sale of such lands, term estate, or interest in lands, or such securities, or personal estate, or effects as aforesaid shall be made except with the consent of the public trustee under his seal, and no document required for the purpose of effecting any such sale (and not being an instrument of transfer of any stock, shares, or securities entered in the books of any company or other body) shall be valid or effectual unless executed by the public trustee under his seal. Provided always that if the public trustee, when requested by such other person or corporation as aforesaid to give such consent in writing or to execute such document as aforesaid, shall unreasonably refuse or neglect to give such consent or to execute such document, any private trustee or any beneficiary may apply to a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court for an order directing the public trustee to give such consent or execute such document, and the Judge may make such order upon the application as he may think fit, including, if the Judge think fit, an order for the payment of the costs of the application by the public trustee. The public trustee shall forthwith act in accordance with any order made under this section directing him to give such consent or execute such document as aforesaid. Save as in the foregoing portion of this subsection is enacted the consent or concurrence of the public trustee shall not be required to or in the execution or exercise by such other person or corporation as aforesaid of any trusts or powers relating to or affecting any such lands, term estate, or interest in lands, securities, personal estate, and effects as aforesaid, and requiring the exercise of any discretion."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR EDWARD CARSON understood the object of the hon. Member to be that where there was a co-trustee with a public trustee the former should have all the management of the estate, and the latter be a bare trustee not interfering in the administration of the trust. If that were so it would altogether frustrate the object of the Bill, because the public trustee would have to leave everything to the co-trustee. As long as public funds were liable for making good breaches of trust it was necessary that the public trustee should be allowed to have actual control.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. SLACK thought his next Amendment, providing for the retirement of private trustees, was essential to the proper working of the Bill. By the appointment of a public trustee the position of private trustees would obviously be so seriously altered that it was only reasonable that they should be afforded some means of retiring if they desired to do so. The Amendment proposed to enable private trustees to retire simply by their executing a deed declaring their desire to retire, that deed to be an effective discharge of the private trustees from the trust without the consent or concurrence of any other person. The other portions of the clause related to the exact method of carrying the operation into effect. He submitted that in any properly-drawn Bill of this kind provision ought to be included for enabling private trustees to retire. It had already been decided that a judicial trustee could not be appointed to act with a private trustee under the Judicial Trustees Act, 1896, and he thought this new clause would improve the Bill by affording a simple and inexpensive method by which private trustees could retire from their trust when a public trustee, either by their invitation or by an order of the Court, had been appointed.

A clause (Retirement of private trustees)—

"In Page 4, after Clause 9, to insert the following clause:—(1) Where the public trustee is appointed to be a trustee of any trust jointly with any private trustee, and such private trustee shall by deed declare that he is desirous on the ground of the appointment of the public trustee of being discharged from the trust, then the private trustee desirous of being so discharged shall be deemed to have retired from the trust and shall by the deed be discharged therefrom under this Act without the consent of any other person being necessary thereto and without any new trustee being appointed in his place and notwithstanding that after such discharge the public trustee will be sole continuing trustee of the trust. (2) Any assurance or thing requisite for vesting the trust property in the continuing trustees or trustee alone shall be executed or done. (3) When a deed by which a retiring trustee is discharged under this Act contains a declaration by the trustee so discharged to the effect that any estate or interest in any land subject to the trust or in any chattel so subject or the right to recover or receive any debt or other thing in action so subject shall vest in the continuing trustee or trustees alone that declaration shall without any conveyance or assignment operate to vest in the continuing trustee or trustees alone if more than one as joint tenants and for the purposes of the trust the estate interest or right to which the declaration relates. This sub-section does not relate to any legal estate or interest in copyhold or customaryhold land or to land conveyed by way of mortgage for securing money subject to the trust, or to any such share stock annuity or property as is only transferable in books kept by a company or other body or in manner directed by or under Act of Parliament. For the purpose of registration of the deed in any registry the trustee so discharged shall be deemed the conveying party, and the conveyance shall be deemed to be made by him under a power conferred by this Act. (4) This section applies to trusts created either before or after the commencement of this Act."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir EDWARD CARSON said the Government could not accept this clause. He wished to point out that the first section of the Bill specially enacted that the public trustee might act either alone or jointly with any other person. As regarded the retirement of a private trustee, there was ample provision under the law as it stood at present to enable him to do so; and, moreover, he had himself put on the Paper an Amendment to Clause 2 to provide that, where the public trustee was appointed, a co-trustee might retire from the trust under the Trustees Act, 1893, notwithstanding that there were not more than two trustees. He thought that the general law and that Amendment would be amply sufficient for the hon. Member's purposes.

*Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) pointed out that the object of his hon. friend's clause was to simplify the retirement of a private trustee and to reduce the expense attaching to it. The Solicitor-General had urged no substantial reason against that. Certainly if a gentleman did not want to continue on a trust on account of the expense to which he might be put, he thought they ought to make some provision for his retirement.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said the right hon. Gentleman had suggested that the object of the hon. Member for St. Albans was to simplify the Bill. He had read the hon. Member's Amendments, and they seemed to consist of nothing but "therefore," "nevertheless," and "notwithstanding," and he could not make head or tail of them. He thought that when a gentleman had, after consideration, undertaken the serious and responsible duties of a trustee he ought not to be allowed to retire easily. The duties of a trustee were much more responsible now than ever they were before, because very severe condition had been imposed by the Finance Act, and trustees might be called upon to make good enormous sums for which they really had had no responsibility at all.

Sir ROBERT REID agreed that it was desirable to simplify and cheapen the process by which a trustee could retire from his trust, but he did not think this clause would effect that. They were discussing the conditions of the appointment of a public trustee and he hoped the House would not encumber the Bill with collateral matters, which would only result in the Bill not becoming law.

*Mr. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury) said the real object of the alteration suggested by the Solicitor-General was that at the present time, if there were not more than two trustees and one wished to retire, he could not do so because it was a rule of law that there should be at all events two trustees. The Amendment would enable a public trustee to remain as a sole trustee.

Mr. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) pointed out that where a private trustee remained with a public trustee the latter would draw a certain fee. Consequently an injustice would arise in regard to a private trustee, who would feel that he was as much entitled to draw a fee as a public trustee. At any rate he thought it ought to be possible for the private trustee to withdraw.

Mr. SOARES hoped the Solicitor-General would accept this Amendment because some of them, at any rate, were agreed that it would reduce the expense.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 39; Noes, 194. (Division List No. 222)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Atherley-Jones, L.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barlow, John Emmott
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Black, Alexander William
Butcher, John George
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Duncan, J. Hastings
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Harwood, George
Helder, Augustus
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Leng, Sir John
Lowe, Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Price, Robert John
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Woodhouse, Sir J T. (Hudder sf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Slack and Mr. Soares.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Ambrose, Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Brymer, William Ernest
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cogan, Denis J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Duke, Henry Edward
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Heath, Sir James (Staffords. NW
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd. Tottenham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath, N.)
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.
Lamont, Norman
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
Malcolm, Ian
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Power, Patrick Joseph
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Horold James
Redmond, John E. (Waterford

Reid,Sir R.Threshie (Dumfries
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie,Rt.Hon.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel,SirHarryS.(Limehouse
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H.(Renfrew)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,RtHn.J.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,EdwardJas.(Somerset)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir William Edw. M
Toulmin, George
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wallace, Robert
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH.
Walton,John Lawson (Leeds,S.
Weir, James Galloway
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wills,Sir Frederick (Bristol,N.
Wilson, Henry J.(York.W.R.)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson-Todd,SirW.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Young, Samuel
Younger, William

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. Crooks.

Mr. SLACK moved to insert after Clause 10 a new clause providing that where the public trustee was sole trustee of funds exceeding £10,000 in value he should give security. It seemed to him quite reasonable that they should limit the liability of the Consolidated Fund to £10,000 and provide that the public trustee should give security for the value of the estate beyond £10,000 when it exceeded that sum.

Mr. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) seconded.

A clause (Public trustee to give security)—

"In page 4, after Clause 10, to insert the following clauses:—'The public trustee shall, within one month after his appointment as sole trustee of any trust exceeding the value of £10,000, or after the grant to him alone of probate or letters of administration in respect of an estate exceeding that value, give security to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade for the due application of the trust property to such an amount as shall be the estimated amount of the trust property which, under or by virtue of such trust or grant, will come to his hands or be under his control.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he had given notice of an Amendment which would include among the rules to be made under the Bill rules relating to the security (if any) to be given by the public trustee and his officers.

Mr. SLACK said he would accept those words, and begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. SLACK then moved a further new clause dealing with the audit of accounts of the public trustee. He thought the clause spoke for itself and did not need any explanation.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER seconded.

A clause (Audit of accounts of public trustee).

"Once in every year the accounts of every srust of which the public trustee is sole trustee thall be audited and a report thereon made by the auditor appointed by the Board of Trade, and any beneficiary under such trust shall be entitled to attend such audit, and to take at his own expense or make copies of and extracts from any books or documents of account."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he thought it preferable to arrange also for the audit by rule, because property of all kinds, the accounts of which might have to be audited oftener than once a year, would be dealt with by the public trustee. Hon. Members would see that under Clause 11 the Lord Chancellor could make rules for the accounts to be kept and the audit thereof, and it was much better to frame rules than to tie matters down in the way suggested by the hon. Member's proposal.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said this did not satisfy him. Before long the public trustee would be the nominal owner of half the property of the country, and the sole control under which he would be placed according to the theory of the Solicitor-General was that of the Lord Chancellor, who was to make such rules as he liked. Did he mean that the Lord Chancellor was to consider rules for special cases, or that he was to make rules applying to all cases, whether the value of the estate was a million or a hundred pounds? Did the Solicitor-General mean that the Lord Chancellor was to be left to make rules to apply to all cases? If that was so they would have a hard-and-fast rule made by the Lord Chancellor. If they rejected this Amendment, the very objection which the Solicitor-General had to it would still exist, because the Lord Chancellor's rule would leave it in the same way, for it was not to be supposed that rules would be made for every case. The experience of this country, and especially the experience of the Public Accounts Committee in regard to the South African War, had shown the absolute necessity for frequent and independent audit, and the House, not the Lord Chancellor, should decide this. They would have here accounts extending to half the property of the country, perhaps more, and it was absolutely necessary that there should be a settled system of audit. It was far better that it should be settled by the House than by a Lord Chancellor who, perhaps, might be taken from the opposite benches, and who might have entirely different views from hon. Members on this side as to *meum* and *tuum*.

Sir EDWARD CARSON suggested the omission of the words "once in every year" and the addition of the words after "Board of Trade," "subject to rules made under this Act."

*Sir HENRY FOWLER hoped the rules would indicate a period for audit, and he thought the period should be once a year. There should be something to indicate the intention of Parliament that it should not be delayed for a longer one than a year.

Sir EDWARD CARSON said that was intended.

Mr. SLACK agreed to the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as Amended, added to the Bill.

Mr. SLACK said it was obvious that if there was to be an audit of the accounts once a year the beneficiaries ought to have an opportunity of meeting and considering the accounts. He begged to move an Amendment for the purpose of so providing.

Sir A. HELDER (Whitehaven) seconded the Motion. He thought the House should have an opportunity of discussing the rules to be made under the Bill. His own opinion was that this was a bad Bill. It was going to deal with an immense amount of property and interfere with the duties and obligations of private trustees. There was not a single will made which did not involve the carrying out of family arrangements, and if these arrangements were to be looked after in premises in London he did not think it would be for the advantage of the family concerned. It was very desirable that power should be given to the public trustee to deal with all questions which arose in Courts set up in the different districts.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not addressing himself to the clause now before the House. He is dealing with the Bill as a whole.

Sir A. HELDER said it was desirable when the accounts were audited that the persons interested should have an opportunity of seeing that everything was properly looked after.

A clause (Meeting of beneficiaries).

"Within one month after the completion of the said audit the public trustee shall convene a meeting of the beneficiaries under the trust and the guardians of such beneficiaries as are minors, and shall report to them the position of the affairs of the trust and lay before them the accounts of the trust for the last year, as audited by the said auditor, together with the report of the said auditor thereon."—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Mr. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket) expressed the hope that the promoters of the Bill would not accept the Amendment. It seemed to him that it would throw a great deal more work on the shoulders of the public trustee than any man could be expected to accept. The Solicitor-General had stated that an audit might take place twice a year. This Amendment proposed that a meeting of the beneficiaries should be convened by the public trustee after the audit, and that would involve an amount of work which no man who could be appointed could undertake to do thoroughly. He hoped that hon. Members would do something rather different from what they were doing at the present time, and that was that they would facilitate the passing of the measure, and not do everything in their power to prevent it passing. Many who were not lawyers were strongly of opinion that this Bill was absolutely necessary, and that it ought to be passed without any delay. It could only be passed by the general consensus of the opinion of the House, and the voluntary dropping of a number of the Amendments which were cumbering the Paper.

***Sir HENRY FOWLER** said his hon. friend the Member for St. Albans had accepted in almost every case the decision of the Solicitor-General with reference to the Amendments he had proposed. He thought the last remark of the hon. Member for Stowmarket was not justified in relation to the Amendments of his hon. friend.

Mr. MALCOLM said he was not referring to the hon. Member, but to the thirty-two pages of Amendments, a large number of which had been rejected in Committee.

***Sir HENRY FOWLER** said many of these were duplicates, and a decision upon one disposed of several. There had been during the discussion objectionable reflections upon the profession to which he had the honour to belong, and they were absolutely unfounded. The fact that in fifteen years there had been out of between 20,000 and 30,000 solicitors an annual average of about four convictions for dishonest practices was an ample justification of the honour and character of the profession. They ought not to impose upon the public trustee the duty of convening meetings of the beneficiaries. What was wanted was that properly audited accounts should be sent to the beneficiaries. The bulk of the fraud that had taken place had arisen because the beneficiaries had been kept in ignorance of what was being done.

Sir EDWARD CARSON said the Amendment was impracticable. It would be impossible for the public trustee to convene in London meetings of beneficiaries who resided abroad or in remote parts of this country. He would consider whether any rule could be framed under which copies of audited accounts could be sent to beneficiaries.

Mr. SLACK asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. SLACK moved an Amendment to provide that there should be established the office of public trustee for every district created for the purpose of this Act. He said that under this Bill all the trusts in the country would be placed in the hands of one public trustee. It seemed to him that if the Bill was to work properly it was essential that the country should be divided into districts, not fewer than the County Court districts, and that a public trustee should be appointed for each district. He pointed out that the passing of the Judicial Trustees Act was preceded by an inquiry by a Select Committee of this House on the subject of the administration of trusts, and that their Report contained a recommendation on the lines indicated in his Amendment. That Committee expressed the opinion that the individual who had the management of a trust should not be one who was separated either by official red tape from those with whose interests he had to deal, nor a person to be approached by formal proceedings either of an official or of a legal character, and that if all that could be offered to the public was an elaborate hierarchy of hardly accessible officials it would be as well to leave things as they were. It was such a scheme as was offered by the present Bill. The Amendment he proposed would comply with the findings of the Committee of 1895.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'trustee,' to insert the words 'for every district created for the purposes of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he did not think it was possible to accept the Amendment. The Bill provided that the public trustee should have branch offices. It would be better to have one public trustee with branch offices than to have public trustees in the various counties. Moreover, the Committee which had been set up had authorised the House to give an indemnity to one public trustee only. If they were to appoint a number of public trustees they might find themselves in a great difficulty.

Question put, and negatived.

Sir EDWARD CARSON moved to omit the word "High" in Sub-section 3. He said a definition of the word "Court" would be inserted in the Bill to show that it meant the High Court in some cases and the County Court in other cases. The object was to provide that small trusts should be administered without going to the High Court.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out the word 'High.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Sir EDWARD CARSON moved to add to Clause 1 the following new sub-section, which he had promised in Grand Committee:—"(4) The entry of the public trustee by that name in the books of a company shall not constitute notice of a trust, and a company shall not be entitled to object to enter the name of the public trustee on its books by reason only that the public trustee is a corporation."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, at end to insert the words, '(4) The entry of the public trustee by that name in the books of a company shall not constitute notice of a trust, and a company shall not be entitled to object to enter the name of the public trustee on its books by reason only that the public trustee is a corporation.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 16, at beginning to insert the words, 'Subject to the provisions of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir EDWARD CARSON: What is the object of the Amendment?

Mr. SLACK: I thought it would make the clause clearer. It is a question of drafting.

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press it. He would consider the matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'settlement,' to insert the words, 'or other instrument creating a trust.'"—(*Mr. Slack*).

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. H. D. GREENE said it would be observed that the Bill was drawn in a rather peculiar way, and he thought the Amendment he was now suggesting would bring all the rules which might be made under the separate clauses of the Act under the Publication of Rules Act, 1893.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, lines 18 and 19, to leave out the words, 'a general order under this section,' and insert the words, 'the rules to be made under this Act.'"—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 26, at end, to insert the words, '(2) Where the public trustee has been appointed a trustee of any trust, a co-trustee may retire from the trust under and in accordance with Section 11 of the Trustee Act, 1893, notwithstanding that there are not more that two trustees.'"—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. BUTCHER (York) said he thought that this Amendment was satisfactory, subject to one point. If the Solicitor-General's Amendment were carried in its present form, a trustee would be unable to retire except with the consent of some other trustee. He did not think this consent should be required if what had been a private trust was converted into a public trust by the calling in of the public trustee. He therefore moved to add to the Amendment the words, "but the consent of the parties mentioned in such section shall not be required."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words, 'but the consent of the parties mentioned in such section shall not be required.'"—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added to the proposed Amendment."

Sir EDWARD CARSON said that perhaps the hon. Gentleman would allow him to consider the point. He undertook to go into the question carefully.

Mr. BUTCHER said he would point out that the appointment of a public trustee was quite a new experience. He, however, accepted the Solicitor-General's suggestion, and would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. SLACK said that the Amendment which he now moved was necessary if this was to be a purely voluntary Act which they had been told it was to be.

Sir EDWARD CARSON, on a point of order, said that the House had already passed words that a public trustee might be appointed in the case of a will or settlement made before or after the passing of the Act.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that the objection was good as against Sub-section A of the Amendment.

Mr. SLACK said he would agree to omit Sub-section A. He thought that where the beneficiaries were entitled to not less than one-half of the value of the estate, and objected to the appointment of a public trustee, their wishes should be given effect to. He did not see why the promoters of the Bill should object to that.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 26, at the end to insert the words '(2) The public trustee shall not be so appointed either as a new or additional trustee. Where the will, settlement, or other instrument creating the trust or duty contains a direction to the contrary. (*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he thought that this Amendment was an impossible one. He hoped the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton would not think he was making any charge against his profession, to which he was sure he was as much indebted as any one—for, after all, it was the discrimination of solicitors which helped them along. But he would point out that this Amendment would leave it open to any solicitor—and there were some solicitors of whom he could say things—to put a provision as to payment into any will or settlement which he was asked to draw. That was most objectionable. It might be said what were they to do if some man not very well off, but still having a little money to leave, went to a solicitor and said, "I have no friend who will act as trustee, will you do it?" That was just the thing it was desired to avoid. But take the case also of a large estate where the trustee died, and others could not be got to take up the trust. Was it not to be allowed that that trust should be administered by the public trustee? Must it go into the Court of Chancery and the estate be administered there at an enormous cost.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he had perhaps more experience than the right hon. and learned Gentleman in matters of this description, and he ventured to say that he had never seen a will or settlement in his life in which there was a stipulation that only a certain solicitor or firm of solicitors should be employed.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said he had seen, and he thought other members of his profession had seen, this provision; that the solicitor appointed an executor by the will, and who drew the will, notwithstanding the fact that he was trustee, should be paid.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said that more than eight-tenths of the large estates in this kingdom were in the hands of solicitor trustees. Did the right hon. and learned Gentleman mean to contend that solicitors were to be incapacitated from acting?

SIR EDWARD CARSON said there ought to be an option.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he knew it was very uphill work fighting against the general prejudice which there seemed to be against the profession of solicitors. But why was Parliament to step in and prevent a testator from having his property managed as he desired? It was to treat testators as if they were lunatics. He most strongly objected to this attempt to give the proposed power to compulsorily deprive a man of the right to say who should be his trustee.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said that the Solicitor-General had put the point that where a poor man had no friends a solicitor might act as trustee, and in the end the poor man might be defrauded. The number of such cases which took place was very small, though they had attained unfortunate prominence. If a solicitor was asked to be a trustee—he did not believe that solicitors would desire any such office—it was because the solicitor was a friend of the testator, and then a clause in the settlement enabling him to obtain reasonable costs was a natural corollary. To argue from one small particular case to the general was neither just, wise, nor expedient. To take an instance of how little demand there was for officialism in this direction he asked how many persons had been appointed under the Judicial Trustees Act. It was so small as to indicate that that Act was a failure. The objections raised were not by any means purely professional, for the London Chamber of Commerce had, in the strongest terms, pronounced against what it regarded as the uncalled-for officialism of this Bill. Take the case of a man with a large commercial estate which had been built up at great cost and enterprise by one who knew all the intricacies and secrets of other firms. His solicitor had advised him during his whole life, and at times of crisis when a wrong step might have meant ruin to his business; and yet this Bill would not allow such a testator to say that he preferred his solicitor to be his trustee, and that he would not have the intervention of an official trustee. There was a want of elasticity in the Bill, and he protested against the system of officialism which it sought to set up.

SIR ROBERT REID said that the Judicial Trustees Act passed some time ago was considered by a Committee of which he was chairman, which had tried to make it effective. It met with very much the same resistance as the Bill now under discussion, and that was the reason why it had been a comparative failure. He hoped that this Bill, when it became an Act, would not, however, be a comparative failure. In regard to this particular Amendment he was sorry that anyone should think that it was the desire of himself or of anyone else to make general accusations against the honourable profession of his right hon. friend. They had no wish to hurt people's feelings but, it was their duty to provide safeguards against fraud. He submitted that the proposal in the Amendment was not reasonable.

MR. BUTCHER said he thought the Amendment was a good one. A man of sound mind ought to be allowed to say how his property should be administered. He thought that the Solicitor-General was unduly afraid of solicitors. He himself preferred to consider that a man who had strong views of his own, and, rightly or wrongly, exercised his rights and said he objected to having his affairs administered by a public trustee, should have his wishes respected. They would be over-riding the wishes of the testator, and treating him, in fact, as if he were a lunatic. That would be an unreasonable interference with the rights of property.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said he knew that there were many Gentlemen who would not give their support to the Bill unless they were satisfied that this was a purely optional business. The Amendment had been spoken of as if it prevented a man from appointing a solicitor as trustee if he so desired. But there would be nothing in the Bill to prevent that if a sufficient number of trustees were appointed. The Amendment declared that, whatever the circumstances might be, if a testator at one time in his life had an objection to the public trustee, the beneficiaries should be debarred from the benefit of his offices, even though all of them might join in desiring to make use of them. The effect would be that for all time during the operation of the will or settlement the public trustee could not be appointed. He hoped the House would generally approve of the action of the Government and the promoters of the Bill.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER said it was a most extraordinary thing to propose that when a man directed a certain thing to be done, which was not contrary to public policy, that direction should not be carried out. It was the common practice in Scotland to appoint a solicitor trustee; and he dissented from the difficulties suggested by the Solicitor-General.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) said he was in favou rof the Bill, but if compulsion were to be applied he could not vote for it. He recognised the necessity there was in certain cases for a public trustee, but he had the greatest dread of all estates coming under the control of such an official. He could not see why one trustee should have the power to appoint the official trustee, who would take the narrowest view of his duties and harass the other trustees. Unless the Amendment were accepted the Bill ought to be opposed at every stage.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that unless the Amendment were accepted the effect of the Bill would be to abolish all private friendship and services and place the larger part of the property in this country under the feeble, antiquated, and stupid administration of a salaried official. That would abolish the essential principle of private property, and would deprive every testator of attaching the conditions which he desired to be carried out. The interest of the *cestuis que trustent* was often diametrically opposed to that of the estate. One of the greatest troubles a trustee had was their rapacious avidity, while the primary duty of the trustee was to preserve the property of which he was trustee. If they gave to persons who came after the settler or testator the power to vary or alter the terms of the deed or will, they might just as well abolish the power of settling altogether. The law was bound to respect the wishes of a testator. The ideal trustee was the man selected on account of his friendship and personal integrity. Practically they were fighting a tendency to abolish the private trustee altogether, to abolish arrangements by which men were called upon to render the greatest service one man could render to another, to abolish a large amount of human gratitude and put in its place a wretched makeshift which had failed in every department of life from the telephone upwards, which must fail because it was wooden and bound by rules and regulations, and which had absent from it all those human considerations which were desirable and necessary in the mind of a trustee, and which the testator had presumed to be necessary in naming the particular trustees whom he appointed. Great as might be the necessity for appointing a public trustee, if he was to be appointed without some such restriction as this Amendment proposed to make, his appointment would be a most unmitigated curse to the country.

Mr. PERKS said it had been his lot for many years to see numerous cases of great enterprises carried out by men who knew that if they ever passed into the control of a public official they would be destroyed. Public officials were wanting in business instincts and capacity for carrying on successfully great industrial enterprises, and he could imagine no more certain method of paralysing such enterprises than to allow the men who were building them up to know that it was open to a few discontented beneficiaries under their wills to fling the whole of their business affairs into the care of some young barrister or accountant nominated by the Lord Chancellor.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT said he hoped the House would come to a decision in the matter.

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he would suggest that the House might accept the proposal if the words "unless the Court otherwise order" were added.

Sir F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) said it was stated that a dead man had nothing to do with his business; but he was the man who by his industry and talent had amassed the fortune which was to be administered. In many cases he had brought the property to a stage in which he knew unless it were administered in a certain way the result would be disastrous. How could a public trustee know all the various duties that would have to be carried out? It was impossible that one man could have all the necessary information. It would be disastrous to business if a testator were to feel that after his death his affairs could not be carried on in the way he had arranged. He had no hesitation in saying that he would prefer to see the Bill destroyed altogether if it was not to be a permissive Bill. Otherwise, it would not be for the advantage of the country. It would be a piece of officialism; and he certainly would vote for the Amendment.

Sir A. HELDER said he could not see the objection to a solicitor to an estate being continued in association with its management as one of the trustees. In many cases it was absolutely necessary that one of the trustees should be a solicitor in order that the wishes of the testator might be carried out. Therefore, why should not a testator appoint a solicitor as a trustee at a proper remuneration. He was astonished at the suggestion that, even if a trustee worked from morning to night, he should have no remuneration. A testator ought to have a perfect right to give any directions he thought proper; and he would therefore support the Amendment.

MR. SLACK said he was quite willing to accept the suggestion of the Solicitor-General.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At the end, to add the words 'unless the Court otherwise order.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

COLONEL PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) said this Amendment was simply directed to securing the liberty of the public to choose in respect to their own affairs men, whom, he believed, as a class were of the highest character. He thought that to interfere with the management of men's private affairs more than was absolutely necessary would be a mistake; private enterprise, private exertion and initiation, which were the life of this country, would be destroyed. Let them by all means introduce a Government official, but do not let them go beyond that. He thought the Bill would be much improved by the insertion of this Amendment.

Question put, "That those words be there added."

The House divided:—Ayes, 213; Noes, 55. (Division List No. 223.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland.
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Buxton, N E. (York, N. R Whitby
Caldwell, James
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r.
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Hry. Cecil
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, P. J. (Westmeath, N.)
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis

Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lamont, Norman
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Kean, John
Malcolm, Ian
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Purvis, Robert
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Slack, John Bamford
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wallace, Robert
Walton John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Woodhouse, Sir J T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. Crooks.

NOES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bigwood, James
Black, Alexander William
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Cameron, Robert
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Coddington, Sir William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Duncan, J. Hastings
Ellice, Capt E C (S. Andrw's Bghs
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Gardner, Ernest
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gore, Hon S. F. Ormsby
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Myers, William Henry
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Perks, Robert William
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Price, Robert John
Rickett, J. Compton
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion
Robinson, Brooke
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Edmund Faber and Mr. Allhusen.

Words, as amended, inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"At the end of the last Amendment to insert the words, '(b) Where the appointment is objected to by any persons beneficially entitled whether for life or in remainder or otherwise and whether absolutely or contingently to not less than one-half in value of the trust property, or if they are infants by their guardians, unless the Court otherwise order.'"—(*Mr. Slack.*)

SIR EDWARD CARSON suggested it should be moved in the same manner as the previous Amendment, with the addition of the words at the end "unless the Court otherwise order."

MR. SLACK accepted the suggestion.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES expressed the opinion that the beneficiaries should not have so great a power given to them, as their interests were directly opposed to that of the trustee.

Question put, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 213; Noes, 36. (Division List No 224.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Benn, John Williams
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Buxton, N. E. (York, NR Whitby
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coddington, Sir William
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John, C.R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, J. Hastings
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt EC (S. Andrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r.
Ffrench, Peter
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S.W.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, P. J (Westmeath, N.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lamont, Norman
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N S.
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Kean, John
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Mooney, John J.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Purvis, Robert

Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, SirR.Threshie (Dumfries
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel,SirHarryS.(Limehouse
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw-Stewart,SirH.(Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stanley,EdwardJas. (Somerset)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Toulmin, George
Tuff, Charles
Ure, Alexander
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wallace, Robert
Walton, JohnLawson(Leeds,S.)
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, ArthurWalters(N.Dorset
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E,R,)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson-Todd,SirW.H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. Crooks.

NOES.

Allhusen,AugustusHenryEden
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Black, Alexander William
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford,W).
Houston, Robert Paterson
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth)
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Myers, William Henry
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robinson, Brooke
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Spear, John Ward
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tritton, Charles Ernest
White, Luke (York, E. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore and Mr. Harmood-Banner.

And, it being after half-past Five of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Friday next.

WAR STORES (COMMISSION) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for the Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said that, at the request of his right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition, he had met the Attorney-General with regard to the Bill, and the Attorney-General had inserted all the Amendments which were suggested to him. In the circumstances, he respectfully suggested that the Second Reading of the Bill should be allowed, and any objection to its proposals could be raised in Committee.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that, notwithstanding the strong view which some of his friends entertained of the Bill, they would withdraw their objection in deference to the wish of the hon. and learned Gentleman.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 3rd July, 1905.

SAT FIRST.

The Lord Bowes (*E. Strathmore and Kinghorne*) sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company [H.L.].

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders have not been complied with in respect of the Petition for the following Bill:—Dover Harbour.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Dover Harbour—(Petition for Bill). Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Thursday next.

Dublin United Tramways Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.]. Committed.

Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; North British Railway (General Powers) Bill; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to. Bills read 2ª accordingly.

Newry, Keady, and Tynan Light Railway Bill. Committed.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; North British Railway (General Powers) Bill. Committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill. Committed.

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill. Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

London County Council (Money) Bill; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill. Committed.

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª. Amendments made Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill. Standing Order No. 93 considered (according to order), and dispensed with, with respect to a Petition of the Electrical Contractors' Association and others. Leave given to present the said Petition.

Malvern Water Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Highland Railway Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

Great Northern Railway Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Order No. 16) Bill (No. 115); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill (No. 116); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 117); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 118); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill (No. 119); Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

Twenty-third Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1904. Part III. Scientific Investigations.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, 1904).

Report on the agricultural returns relating to acreage and produce of crops and number of live stock in Great Britain, with summaries for the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries, and particulars of prices, imports, and exports of agricultural produce.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

Twenty-ninth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, being their Annual Report for the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Statement of estimated income and expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation, for the year 1905–1906.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD.

Thirtieth Annual Report of the Public Works Loan Board, 1904-1905 (with Appendices).

PACIFIC CABLE ACT, 1901 (ACCOUNT 1904–1905).

Account showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of the Pacific Cable Act, 1901, and the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act, to the 31st March, 1905; together with report of the Chairman of the Pacific Cable Board.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE).

Order made by the County Council of the county of Cambridge redividing the Eastern District of the county into polling districts.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

IMPORTS FROM BRITISH COLONIES.

Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of this day), and to be printed. (No. 120.)

SHIPOWNERS' NEGLIGENCE (REMEDIES) BILL.

Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Tuesday the 11th instant (*The Lord Ludlow.*) (No. 113.)

Mr. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª to-morrow (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*). (No. 114.)

IMPORTS FROM BRITISH COLONIES.

The Earl of PORTSMOUTH rose to call attention to the declarations made by members of His Majesty's Government with regard to a Colonial Conference; and to move for a Return giving the average wholesale price in the month of June and December in each year from 1890 to 1904, inclusive, of the following articles imported from British Colonies: wheat, oats, frozen beef, lamb and mutton, butter, cheese, and wool.

He said: My Lords, we have had a good many what are called fiscal debates in this House, and I do not know that they have brought us very much nearer obtaining any exact appreciation of the condition of things. I am very anxious that I should dissociate any remarks that I make from Party feeling, and I think that at the present moment we are in a position to consider this question in a somewhat less excited way than we were some time ago. In the first place the country has, I think, made up its mind that it will not be rushed in regard to this question. I do not think there is any feeling at the present moment, such as Mr. Chamberlain's speeches would induce, that we are on the verge of an Imperial crisis. In fact, the country is perfectly prepared to consider this question of a Colonial Conference and colonial preference in a quiet and calm way; and the important thing is that every means should be taken to place the public in possession of such facts as would enable them to arrive at a sound and just conclusion.

Whether this question of colonial preference is to be discussed at the usual Colonial Conference which takes place next year or at a special Colonial Conference, seems to me to be in itself a matter of less importance than the fact that a statesman of Mr. Chamberlain's position has brought forward distinct and definite proposals which must now be taken to hold the field. I am quite sure that whether or not the conference considers this question, the people of this country will not be bound by any decision of the conference any more than the people of the Colonies. I would refer for a moment to the statements which have been made by the representatives of Canadian manufacturers who have been in this country. I do not want to trouble your Lordships with any long extracts from speeches, but I am sure you will agree with me that it is eminently satisfactory to find language of the kind I shall quote, used by Mr. George on behalf of the Canadian manufacturers who are over here. Mr. George, who is President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, said on a recent memorable occasion, namely, at the luncheon given at Tilbury by the London Dock Company, that—

> "Tariff or no tariff, they were British for all time."

And, again, at the dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce, he said—

> "Canada would not think of pressing the mother country to grant what the mother country did not think beneficial to herself. Whatever happened, Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific would desire no national life outside the British Empire, for no separate existence, however splendid, could compare with that which awaited them as citizens of that mighty federation."

There is, therefore, no reason to raise this question of a Colonial Conference as a political programme, or to bring it into the arena of Party politics, where it becomes almost impossible to disentangle what is economic from what is political in the figures and arguments presented; but I do wish to impress upon your Lordships the fact that the public ought to know very clearly and definitely, before they agree to or accept proposals such as have been put forward by Mr. Chamberlain and which deservedly carry great weight having been put forward by so distinguished a man, what effect the proposals will have upon opening out, which I take to be the *quid pro quo*, the Colonial markets, and, also, what effect they will have upon the question of the taxation of our food.

We ought to bear in mind what the effect has been upon British imports into the Colonies of the existing preference which was given in 1897. I do not wish to argue whether that preference has done all that it was expected to do; I do not wish to say anything against that preference; I only want to mention this fact, that, whatever may be the effect of that preference, it has still left the tariffs of the Colonies very protectionist as regards us. The duty collected on British dutiable imports into Canada since the preference of 1897 averages over 25 per cent.; and, putting dollars into pounds in order to arrive at a clearer statement, Canadian imports from Great Britain have in 1904—the last year with regard to which I could get a statement—as compared with 1897, the year before the preference came into force, only increased £6,000,000, while the Canadian imports from the United States have increased by over £17,000,000. Those figures show, and, I think, very conclusively, that while we have undoubtedly had some share in the growing prosperity and progress of Canada, the preference of 1897 has not been such, and cannot be such, as to outweigh the enormous natural advantages of the United States.

If I take the case of Australia I find that the tariffs on imports of dutiable goods of British origin amount to an *ad valorem* rate of 19 per cent.; and then, taking the other great colony, New Zealand, I find that there the Customs tariffs on British manufactures and on clothing, blankets, all woollen and cotton goods, and all manufactures of metal have varied from 20 to close upon 25 per cent. We, therefore, have to face the fact that, in spite of whatever benefits the preference of 1897 may have given to us, we still have a very serious and powerful tariff wall built up against us in the colonial markets.

One word with regard to another view of this question. Let us examine somewhat cursorily the growth of the manufacturing industries in our great Colonies. It is quite true that these Colonies have during the last thirty years more than trebled themselves in all the great products which they would import into this country; in cattle, in sheep, and in the clip of wool, but, as against that, it must be borne in mind that during the greater part of that period prices have declined nearly 50 per cent., and that that decline in price has not been compensated for by any corresponding advantage in the cost of production. It is perfectly natural to my mind that, under those circumstances, these great colonies, who are not affected by our great difficulty of a redundant population, should have started manufactures in order to give a value to native products. This colonial industrial development is now on a most enormous scale. The capital employed in the manufacturing industries of Australia alone amounts to over £60,000,000.

That brings me to the point of my Return. I presume that the object of the policy of colonial preference is, that we should lay the lines of a self-contained Empire, that we should, in return for a preference given to colonial imports, have the great advantage of free access to the colonial markets. We want to know, therefore, what will be the effect of this 5 per cent. duty. Will a 5 per cent. duty upon meat and dairy produce be sufficient to throw open to us Australian and Canadian markets? I have had the great advantage of being able to get very careful estimates worked out by an expert on this matter. I am not going to weary your Lordships with any long list of figures, but I have had it worked out for me that a duty of 5 per cent. on South American meat—which, after all, would be the competing country with Australia—on value declared at the port of entry, would equal a little less or a little more, according to the fluctuations of price, than one-eighth of a penny per pound, and would never exceed three-sixteenths of a penny; but against that, and showing how futile a duty of this kind would be, meat sold wholesale at Smithfield varies in price in good or bad years from 2½d. to 4d. per pound, a fluctuation of 1½d. per pound, or, in other words, an amount equal to ten or twelve times the duty.

Let me now take foreign cheese, upon which it is proposed to put a duty of 5 per cent. Foreign cheese, with that duty, might pay from 2s. to 3s. a cwt., but imported foreign cheese will rise or fall as much as £1 a cwt. in a few months. As a matter of fact, Canadian cheese, Canada being the chief exporting colony, has varied within the last two years from £2 to £3 a cwt. Let me take one of the other great staple industries of Australia—wool, which is, perhaps, the greatest import we should receive from Australia, and which we should expect, and the Asutralians would expect, to be benefited under a system of preference. During the last sixteen years the price of New South Wales wool has been as high in London as 13d. a pound and as low as 6d. a pound; and, again, to come to the recent years with which we have to deal, we see the most extraordinary fluctuations in regard to the production of wool; the average price of Australasian wool in London in 1902 was £11 16s. 7d. a bale; in 1903 it was £13 10s., a rise of over 33s. I have in my hand the report of perhaps one of the greatest wool-exporting firms. Speaking of last year, 1904, it gives us these most remarkable figures—

> "The chief feature of prominence during the year just concluded has been the continual advance made in the coarser qualities of cross-breds, which are now about 50 per cent. dearer than at the close of 1903. Medium grades show a rise of 25 per cent., and the finer a rise of 15 per cent., but the great bulk of the wool shows a rise of 50 per cent."

I quite understand that it may be said that if the effect of these fluctuations is so great, my argument goes to show that you can put on a 5 per cent. duty without affecting the price of food. I remember very distinctly that during a debate in this House, I think it was in April, a little altercation took place between the noble Duke the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and Lord Goschen. Lord Goschen congratulated Lord Balfour of Burleigh upon having obtained a clear declaration to the effect that the Prime Minister is opposed to the taxation of food. The noble Duke interposed and said—

> "The protective taxation of food."

Whereupon Lord Goschen asked—

> "Will the noble Duke explain the difference?"

and the noble Duke replied—

> "No, indeed, I will not."

I do not wish to put any conundrums to the noble Duke, but I think both he and the Prime Minister will find it very hard, having put a shilling registration duty on corn and then taken it off again, to explain how any duty does not bear some effect upon the quetions of price.

But that is not my point this evening. My point is this, how does a 5 per cent. duty affect the opportunity of the manufactures of this country obtaining a larger use of the colonial markets? It is perfectly clear, if the fluctuation in price is so great as to be, as I have been able to show, several times the amount of the duty, that if you are to put on any duty at all which is to break down the tariff wall of the Colonies you will have to raise the duty upon foodstuffs very much beyond 5 per cent. I am quite prepared to believe that the noble Duke was, so far as he could see his way, anxious not to put on any duty which would seriously affect the cost of living of the poor, and, therefore, I hope His Majesty's Government will agree to this Return, which I do not ask for in any Party spirit. I do think we ought to know, when we are asked to consider this question, what the effect of this duty will be upon Australian products, because it is perfectly certain that the great manufacturing industries in the Colonies, which are not governed, controlled, or influenced by the difficulties of food in this country, will never agree to admit our articles in exchange for any duty we put on unless our duty makes it worth their while to do so. I have been in communication with the Board of Trade and am quite willing to make some verbal modifications in the terms of my Motion in accordance with their suggestion.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for a Return showing the average wholesale prices in the months of June and December in each year from 1890 to 1904, inclusive, of the following articles imported from the principal exporting British Colonies: wheat, oats, beef, fresh (including frozen), butter, cheese, and wool."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Duke of MARLBOROUGH): My Lords, the Government cannot in any way complain of the moderate manner in which the noble Earl has moved the Motion which stands in his name. He prefaced his remarks by assuring your Lordships that he desired to approach this question of colonial preference in, as far as possible, a non-Party spirit, and we for our part are most grateful to the noble Earl for the moderate manner in which he has laid his views before the House. The noble Earl pointed out that, in his opinion, the country is not going to be rushed without consideration into a closer commercial union with the Colonies, and I can assure him that that is equally the view of His Majesty's Government. The policy of the Government has all along been that ample time and opportunity should be given to the people of this country, and also to those who reside in our Colonies, to examine the question so far as they are able, and to decide in their own minds whether or not it is possible to come into a closer commercial union than at present exists.

The noble Earl furthermore pointed out that the people of this country, before they could arrive at a proper conclusion upon this problem, required ample time to consider it. If he will examine carefully the statements of the Prime Minister when he laid down his policy in connection with the Colonial Conference, the noble Earl will see that the aim of the Prime Minister has been that this matter should not be rushed, should not be dealt with in a hasty spirit, but that ample time and opportunity should be given to everybody, both here and in the Colonies, to form considered opinions on the subject before any scheme of any sort or kind is brought into existence. Therefore, I cannot help feeling that the views of the noble Earl are really the views of a great number of those who belong to the Unionist Party. Listening to him this afternoon, I confess I thought that he had considerably modified the views which are generally expressed by noble Lords on the other side of the House; indeed, I am not at all sure that in the future we shall not be claiming him as a supporter of the Unionist policy in colonial matters. Then the noble Earl dwelt for a brief moment on Canada, and the preference so far as it had benefited this country. He pointed out to your Lordships that the Canada had given us a preference of 25 per cent., which had subsequently been raised to 33 per cent., and he reminded the House that this country had in consequence increased its exports to Canada by £6,000,000.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: I do not want to interrupt the noble Duke, but what I stated was that, in spite of the preference, a duty of 25 per cent. was the average duty upon British imported goods.

*THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: The noble Earl said that whereas imports into Canada from Great Britain had increased to the extent of £6,000,000, imports into Canada from the United States had increased by £17,000,000, and from that he argued that the preference which Canada had granted us had not been so great as some people supposed. But I think the noble Earl entirely forgets one important point in examining the imports from America into Canada and those from the United Kingdom into Canada. The exports which America sends to Canada consist largely of raw material, on which, so far as I am aware, there is no duty whatever; while British exports consist of manufactured goods, the most dutiable of all goods entering Canada from this and other countries. Therefore, it is unfair to draw a comparison between British trade with Canada and American trade with Canada. I might, incidentally, remind the noble Earl that the result of the preference granted by Canada has been to increase our trade with Canada from £6,000,000 to £12,000,000; and the Finance Minister, some three or four months ago, stated in the Dominion Parliament that the result of the Canadian preference had been that the Canadian Exchequer had lost over £1,000,000 a year by the reduction of duties on British goods entering their ports.

The noble Earl next passed to Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and concluded by saying that he thought there was still a very high colonial tariff wall against goods entering from this country. I think that is a slightly exaggerated statement. It is true that the tariffs in our Colonies are not low ones, but the noble Earl is perfectly well aware that for purposes of revenue it is essential that the tariffs should exist. But I think he has entirely lost sight of the fact that not only Canada, but New Zealand and South Africa, have given us substantial preferential treatment, the result of which we shall be able to gauge in the course of the present year; and I believe when the figures are published we shall see that it has been of no inconsiderable benefit to the commercial community in this country. The noble Earl went on to discuss the effect of a 5 per cent. duty. I do not understand why the noble Earl particularly selected a 5 per cent. duty on manufactured goods coming into this country.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH: It was Mr. Chamberlain's proposal.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: Precisely; but I was not aware that the noble Earl was desirous that I should discuss with him in your Lordships' House the merits or demerits of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. I understood from the Motion that he was anxious to inquire into the policy of His Majesty's Ministers, and, although I do not deny that the proposal of a 5 per cent. duty may be a valuable one, that certainly is not the present policy of His Majesty's Government. Matters of that sort, the question of the fluctuation in the price of wool coming from the Colonies to this country, and whether that fluctuation will be affected by a 5 per cent. duty placed upon manufactured goods, should be relegated to the Colonial Conference for discussion. I do not deny that a discussion of these matters may be profitable, but to anticipate that discussion in this House will not add very much to our knowledge of the problems involved, nor do I think it will in any way influence the representatives when they assemble at the Colonial Conference.

The noble Earl asks in the Motion on the Paper for a Return giving the average wholesale prices, in the months of June and December in each year from 1890 to 1904, of certain articles imported from British Colonies. I am sorry to say that it will not be possible to give the Return in precisely that form. We are prepared to give him a statement of the average wholesale prices in the months of June and December in each year from 1890 to 1904 inclusive of the following articles imported from the principal exporting British Colonies: wheat, oats, fresh beef, which will include frozen beef, lamb and mutton, butter, cheese, and wool. I doubt, however, whether, when the noble Earl is in possession of these figures, although they will be a source of interest to him, he will be able to draw any definite conclusions from them.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Return ordered accordingly.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA.

Lord **TWEEDMOUTH** rose "To ask the Under-Secretary of State for India whether any, and if so, what, assistance is to be rendered by Government to those British officers of Goorkha regiments who suffered heavy loss by the destruction of their houses, with their effects, at the time of the recent earthquake at Dharmsala."

He said: My Lords, the case that I wish to bring before your Lordships is simple and urgent, and I think will commend itself to your sympathy. The terrible earthquake that took place in India is still fresh in the recollection of all of us, together with the terrible loss of life and property which was involved. The place which, above all others, suffered was Dharmsala, and, of those who suffered there, I suppose the greatest burden of loss fell on His Majesty's gallant little Goorkhas. It is not the general question that I wish to direct your Lordships' attention to; it is to the case of the European officers of those Goorkha regiments, who have suffered in a very peculiar manner, but one which certainly is quite capable of being easily remedied. Ten of these British Goorkha officers have lost their houses, which were destroyed by the earthquake. Their mess-house and the quarters built by the mess for bachelor officers were also destroyed. These houses were built owing to the Government of India providing no other accommodation. The Government provided these men with no barrack accommodation; they made them no allowance for barrack accommodation; there was an allowance made for what is called tentage, but a tent at Dharmsala is not a very suitable or healthy residence for men permanently there, for they are subject at one season of the year to violent tropical rains, and at another season to the falls of snow of the Himalayas.

The Government of India have themselves acknowledged that tents are not suitable places for British officers to live in, for when you look at the public buildings you find that the stores, hospitals, and magazines are all of an extremely substantial nature. The Government have acknowledged the necessity of this house-building, because when an officer desires to build a house the Government are ready to advance the sum necessary for the purpose by way of loan. The loan is repayable by the officer in monthly instalments, and when those instalments are paid off the house becomes the officer's own property. The amount of these loans is small, and some further money is always required to come out of the pockets of the officers themselves. These houses have been destroyed, and with them has gone the personal property of the officers in question. To force these men to live in tents is to submit them to grave danger of fever, and is certainly not desirable for the men themselves or advantageous to His Majesty's service.

What is now being done, as I understand, is that these officers are, at their own expense, putting up wooden huts in which to get shelter during the rainy season which is now coming on. There is no power on the part of the Government to order them to put up these huts, and it does seem to me that this is a case which deserves the favourable and serious consideration of the Government of India. I hope my noble friend the Under-Secretary will be able to assure me that it is going to receive that favourable consideration, and that some considerable effort will be made to relieve the officers from the loss which has fallen on them, not through any fault of their own, but by what I may term an act of God.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The MARQUESS of BATH): My Lords, I can assure my noble friend that the Government of India and the Secretary of State here fully acknowledge the equity of the case which he has presented to your Lordships. I may remind your Lordships that the Secretary of State the other day gave certain information in another place with regard to the intention of the Government of India. They have recommended a grant of 60,500 rupees towards rebuilding the mess and the private houses. They have also made other grants towards the mess funds and furniture, the regimental institutes, etc. A part of these grants will be met by sums from Lord Kitchener's fund, which has also granted a considerable sum towards the loss of personal property. In addition, there are the pensions, gratuities, and the compensation for the loss of clothing and equipment sustained by the Goorkhas themselves. It has been decided also to issue free passages to the families and widows who have been obliged to return to England on account of the earthquake. Moreover, there are, of course, the questions of pensions and gratuities to the injured officers, and also pensions to the families and widows of those who were killed, which will be granted on the intermediate scale by which the widows get 50 per cent., and the children 25 per cent. more than the ordinary rate. I have only to add that the Secretary of State has expressed his desire and intention of acting under the Royal Warrant in as liberal a manner as possible in order to relieve the officers and men of the misfortune under which they have suffered. I trust that this information will be satisfactory to my noble friend.

MOTOR-CAR SPEED.

EARL RUSSELL: My Lords, I rise "To call attention to the pledges as to uniformity in speed limits given in the House during the passage of the Motor-Car Act, 1903, and to ask why these have been departed from in the case of Beverley; and whether the Local Government Board have taken the advice of the Law Officers as to their power to impose varying speed limits under Section 8 of the Motor-Car Act, 1903." That section gives power to the Local Government Board in the case of certain roads to prohibit or restrict the use of motor-cars upon those roads; and, acting under that section, an Order has been made in the case of the town of Beverley, in Yorkshire, by which a speed of five miles an hour is imposed on motor-cars for a certain small section of narrow road in the centre of the town.

The first Question I have to ask is whether it is within the competence of the Local Government Board to impose a speed limit under Section 8. At first blush the words "prohibit or restrict" might appear to include restriction of speed or anything else; but when you have another section in the same Act which provides a twenty-mile-an-hour limit of speed all over the country, and a second speed limit of ten miles exactly in certain definite circumstances, it seems rather curious to hold that the words of Section 8, which does not on the face of it deal with speed, gives an unexpected power to impose a speed limit of a third character. That result, I think, was not contemplated when the Act passed, and I shall be glad to know whether the advice of the Law Officers has been taken as to the propriety of so interpreting that section.

During the passage of the Motor-Car Bill through this House, when it was in the charge of my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the question arose as to the imposition of a speed limit. The Bill as originally introduced had no speed limit in it at all, but, yielding to representations which were made in this House, Lord Balfour consented to introduce a speed limit of ten miles an hour where it was applied for by the local authorities, and that provision is now embodied in the Act. I think it was understood throughout that discussion that although there was to be this special limit of ten miles an hour in places where it was thought by the local authorities and by the Local Government Board, after inquiry, that the circumstances of the case required it, there should not be different speed limits throughout the country. I have refreshed my recollection on that subject by looking up the pages of *Hansard*. I find that on July 14th Lord Tweedmouth said—

> "Do I understand that it would be possible to have over the whole country a patchwork of different speeds according to the desires of the different local authorities?"

To that Question Lord Balfour replied—

> "I agree with the noble Lord that the fewer variations of speed the better. I think that there should not be, except in very exceptional circumstances, a very low limit of speed prescribed. I hope it will be found possible to have only one limit of speed in the great majority of places."

The subject was again referred to a week later by Lord Balfour, who said—

> "I entirely agree with the noble Lord opposite that it is undesirable to have too many varying speed limits all over the country. There may be special cases where a very low speed ought to be fixed, a speed lower than ten or twelve miles an hour, but they will be very few. We think that where there is a special limit imposed it should in almost every case be the same limit, so that when a driver is within the prescribed points he should always keep within the same limit. It would be very inconvenient to have a limit in one county of fourteen miles an hour, in another of twelve, and in another of ten; and the President of the Local Government Board is prepared to agree that except in the most extraordinary circumstances the limit of speed for special areas should be uniform, and that that limit should be ten miles an hour."

That bears out the general recollection which I had, that there were not to be conflicting speed limits, but that we were to have a general speed limit of twenty miles an hour, and in those special areas a speed limit of ten miles an hour, and I have not been able to find anywhere any understanding, in this House or in the other House, that Section 8 was intended to give power to the Local Government Board to impose different speed limits from those provided in the Act.

In the particular case of Beverley, I suppose one Answer may be that it is precisely one of those special cases which was carefully excepted by the words of the noble Lord which I have just read. I am acquainted with this locality, and made it my business to attend the inquiry which was held there by the Local Government Board. The road in question is a very narrow one, exactly in the centre of the town. I had hoped to be able to lay before your Lordships today exact figures as to the rate in miles per hour at which traffic passes through there, but I am sorry to say I have not been furnished with the figures in time. My own recollection is that I have passed through in an ordinary fly at a speed of eight or ten miles an hour. I think if observation were kept on this particular place it would be found that no traffic, except heavy and slow vans, or traffic obstructed by other traffic, went through at a less speed than seven or eight miles an hour; and therefore to provide that a motor-car, which is the most controlled of all the devices which run on the road, should go at only five miles an hour is an anomaly. I venture to think the driver would not be able to make a motor-car go at five miles an hour without considerable previous practice, for it is a speed which is incredibly slow, and one which, if maintained, would lead to the driver being hurried on by the police. But what I wish to call attention to is the imposition, for the first time I believe, at Beverley of this limit, and to express the hope that these peculiar speed limits will not be imposed. They are very confusing, and, in practice, are not observed, and it is a regrettable thing to my mind to impose a legal prohibition unless you mean that prohibition to be complied with.

Lord HERRIES: My Lords, I should like to say a word or two before the noble Lord replies. I am very well acquainted with the locality in question, and probably know it better than the noble Lord who has put this Question. I may say that this is one of those cases in which the speed limit should be decided more on the ground of common-sense than of what is strictly legal. Beverley is rather peculiar in this respect, that there are very narrow streets all converging on a centre. If motors were to go at a great speed through these narrow streets I am quite sure there would be great risk to the passers-by. I was very glad indeed to hear the compliment which the noble Lord paid to the horse traffic in Beverley by telling us that the cabs go at the rate of eight or ten miles an hour. I very frequently have reason to drive through Beverley, and I think six miles an hour is the quickest pace at which I have ever been driven. We must also remember that it is almost impossible for motor-cars to keep to an exact speed. If you fix five miles an hour, in all probability they will go at six or seven. I have every reason to believe that motors do go through the town of Beverley at six or seven miles an hour, and, knowing the circumstances as I do, I think that is quite as fast as is safe for the inhabitants. In the Middle Ages this ancient borough of Beverley had the right of sanctuary. The sanctuary was situated in the old minster; the church lands extended to a distance of two miles round the minster. That is about the extent of the borough, and I must say that I quite applaud the action of the local authority who have made it a sanctuary in which their citizens and neighbours are safe from the hostile incursions of foreign motors. It is one of the few places, I believe, in the country where His Majesty's subjects are quite safe, and I think the authorities at Beverley, considering how narrow the streets are adjoining the market-place, were quite right in fixing the speed limit at five miles an hour. There is also a very narrow gateway through which most of the people entering the town have to go, and it would be dangerous if motors were allowed to pass through that bar at a quicker rate than five miles an hour. I hope, whatever Answer His Majesty's Government may give to the Questions of the noble Earl, no alteration will be made in the speed limit.

Lord KENYON: My Lords, I can assure the noble Lord who has just sat down that the Local Government Board will make no alteration in the happy state of things that exist at Beverley. In reply to the Question put to me by the noble Earl opposite, I have to say that the Local Government Board have not thought it necessary to consult their Law Officers as to the interpretation of this particular clause in the Act. Before the Order was made public an inquiry was held, and pieces of the roadway to which it applied were inspected by an inspector of the Department. The pieces of road named in the Order are all short in length, but narrow. The roadway ranges from eleven feet three inches to thirteen feet, and anything approaching a high speed there would be obviously most improper. The Local Government Board were advised by their inspector that they were all places at which the ordinary motor traffic might be regarded as specially dangerous. Therefore, in this case, they made an exception to the usual speed limit. The section, as the noble Lord rightly says, allows the Board to "prohibit or restrict" motor-car traffic, and the Local Government Board cannot agree with the noble Lord that the restriction does not apply to speed. It seems to them unreasonable to say that the natural meaning of the word "restrict" should be confined at all. The word must be held to cover any form of restriction, whether it be restriction of speed, of hours, or of classes of cars. For that reason they did not think it necessary to have the section construed for them. There has been one other case in which the maximum rate of speed was fixed at five miles an hour, but only one. It should be remembered that the section of the Act under which the Beverley Order was made was not in the Bill when Lord Balfour made the observations from which the noble Earl has quoted. The noble Earl did not read one portion of the speech made by

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in which Lord Balfour said—

> "The President of the Local Government Board is prepared to agree that except in the most extraordinary cases the limit of speed in special areas should be uniform."

EARL RUSSELL: I did read that.

LORD KENYON: Well, we hold that this is a very exceptional case, and, as such, it has been treated in an exceptional manner. I do not think the noble Earl can find any fault with the Department for attempting to conduce to the safety of the town of Beverley or of any other place where it seems necessary to impose exceptionally low limits.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, I have no complaint to make of the quotations which the noble Earl opposite made from what I said when the Bill was passing through this House. I venture to say that most of your Lordships will think that in the case of a street, such as that quoted by the noble Lord who has just spoken on behalf of the Local Government Board, which is, in parts, only eleven feet three inches wide, and is nowhere more than thirteen feet wide, it would be unsafe for any traffic to go at a speed above the very ordinary speed of horse-drawn traffic. I do not think it necessary to touch upon that, but I do want to press this point, that the policy of His Majesty's Government, when the Bill was introduced in this House, was to do without a speed limit altogether. The argument put before the House was that the safest thing to rely on was the ordinary conditions of the user of the road, that whoever used the road must be responsible for the speed at which he went wherever he was. I do not think that that was altogether a popular argument in this House at the time. It was a less popular argument in another place, but I still think it would have been the soundest policy to keep to that. I do not think that anyone will say that the present condition of affairs under the Act is altogether satisfactory. I think there is a great deal to be said against it. I argued then, as I should argue now, for the same conditions being put on the user of the roads by motor-cars as other traffic; and on the other hand it is reasonable, I think, that there should be a power restricting the speed in really exceptional cases. When I used the argument quoted, which, fairly interpreted, covers this special case, there was no speed limit in the Bill, This particular clause, under which the Beverley Order was made, was not in the Bill at that time, and, therefore, anything I said on that occasion, in arguing for the Bill as it then stood, cannot by any stretch of imagination be held to apply to what was put in in another place afterwards and not objected to in this House when, on the subsequent stages, it received your Lordships' sanction.

I am not quite sure whether Lord Kenyon did justice to the strength of the case, as I understand it, for this particular restriction. The noble Earl opposite seemed to imply that Section 8 as it stands in the Act ought not to apply to a restriction of speed. I understand the argument of the noble Earl to be that there is power in another clause to restrict the speed to ten miles an hour, and that Clause 8, which does not place a limit on speed at all, but simply uses the words, "prohibit or restrict the driving of motor-cars," ought not to be applied to a restriction of speed. There is nothing in the Act, so far as I can read it, to give colour to that idea. There is a provision that in certain places you are to be restricted to ten miles an hour; but, surely, if there is in addition to that a power given to the Local Government Board, after inquiry, to prohibit or restrict the driving of motor-cars, it is straining language that the word "restrict" should be held not to apply to speed, but only to something else which is not specified. I do not want to venture my opinion on a point of law, but, reading it as a mere matter of common-sense, it seems to me that, unless there is some provision in the Bill limiting the interpretation of the word "restrict" in a clause of this kind, it must be held to have its ordinary interpretation in the English language. I thank the noble Earl for giving me notice that he intended to call in question what I had said, and express the hope that I have been able to clearly show that in the statements I made I had no wish to mislead the House.

EARL RUSSELL: I can assure the noble Lord who has just sat down that nothing I said was intended to bear that interpretation, and I hope the noble Lord will accept my remarks in that spirit. I would just make this one observation, that the remarks which have been made about a road only eleven feet wide overlook the fact that there are hours, between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m., when, however populous the neighbourhood may be, the road is not frequented.

MOTOR-CARS IN HYDE PARK.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN, who had given notice to ask His Majesty's Government "(1) at whose suggestion, by what authority, or by whose initiative Hyde Park has been closed to motors and electric cars? (2) on what grounds the order has been issued? (3) whether the order is aimed at any particular section of society, and, if not, whether electric carriages may not again be allowed by His Majesty's Government to enter the park during the hours at present forbidden to them, said: "My Lords, I would not trouble your Lordships by making any observations on this question had it not been that I desire, with your Lordships' permission, to withdraw the words "at whose suggestion" and "by whose initiative" in the first paragraph of my Question. It has come to my knowledge, since I put this notice upon the Paper, that the prohibition of motor-cars between certain hours in Hyde Park has been hastened, if not actuated, by some annoyance to the greatest lady in the land; and I think, therefore, your Lordships will agree with me that I should not have asked this Question in that sense, for there is nowhere where we respect Her Majesty more than in this House, and regret that any annoyance has been caused to her.

Be the story right or wrong, I at least feel entitled to ask the representative of the Office of Works upon what authority the park has been closed to motor and electric cars. I have before me the Public Parks Act of 1872, paragraph 9 of which says distinctly that any rule made in pursuance of this Act shall be forthwith laid before the Houses of Parliament, if Parliament be sitting, or, if not, then within three weeks after the beginning of the then next ensuing session of Parliament, and if any such rule shall be disapproved of by either House of Parliament within one month after it has been laid on the Table, such parts as shall be disapproved shall not be sanctioned. This Order has not been laid before Parliament. I have looked through the schedule, and I see a provision in paragraph 6 that no person shall ride or drive on any road which may be declared unfit for use owing to repairs or for any other special reason; but, again, it has to be referred, by paragraph 9, to the Houses of Parliament.

I understand that a reply to the Question has been given in another place to the effect that the smoke, smell, noise, and dirt emanating from motor-cars are the reasons why they have been prohibited. Assuming that there is some strength in that argument as applied to petrol cars, it surely cannot be suggested that carriages and broughams propelled by electricity give out either smoke or smell, or create any noise. There is no carriage in the world quieter and better fitted to be allowed in the park than an electric brougham. I would ask His Majesty's Government, therefore, whether they cannot see their way to vary the order, and allow electrically-propelled carriages to enter the park during the hours at which they are now prohibited; and I at the same time ask under what authority the park has been arbitrarily closed to motors and electric cars.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Lord WINDSOR): My Lords, I have first of all to thank the noble Earl for having postponed this Question from last week owing to my inability to be in the House then to answer it. The noble Earl has asked me three specific Questions, and I think it would be convenient that I should answer them as they appear on the Paper. In reply to the first Question

I have to say that it is by my suggestion, authority, and initiative that the regulation referred to has been issued. In the second Question the noble Earl asks on what grounds the order has been issued. My Answer is that great inconvenience was found by those using Hyde Park for various purposes in consequence of the noise, dust, danger, and smell of motor-cars in considerable number, and in the interests of the large majority of persons using the park it was thought desirable to impose certain restrictions on motor-cars in the most crowded hours of summer afternoons. I confess I do not understand the beginning of the third Question. I had hoped that the noble Earl would have given some indication in the course of his remarks, as to what he meant by asking whether the order is aimed at any particular section of society. I do not know whether it has anything humorous at the bottom of it; but, owing no doubt to my stupidity, I am unable to discover the joke. I must say I regret that I do not see my way to alter the rule as it now stands or to differentiate between electric and other motor carriages.

I now come to the question as to the rule under which this authority has been exercised. The rule under which this authority is exercised is Rule No. 1 of the rules which were framed under the Parks Regulation Act of 1872, and dated April 28th, 1904. The rule provides that—

> "Cycles, whether mechanically propelled or otherwise, and carriages and cars propelled or drawn by mechanical means shall only be admitted under such regulations as may from time to time be framed by the Commissioners of His Majesty's Office of Works."

That rule was laid upon the Table of both Houses of Parliament, and under that rule the regulations in question have been framed. I may, perhaps, remind the House that many other regulations are made under this rule—regulations, for instance, concerning bathing in the Serpentine, or going upon the ice when the Serpentine is frozen over. There are all sorts of different occasions when regulations have to be specially made under the rule. I may also remind the House that a case was taken into the Courts the other day in order to get a decision upon this very point, as to the legality of the regulations under the rule. The magistrate allowed a case to be stated for the Higher Court, and the Lord Chief Justice, with two other Judges concurring, gave judgment that the proceeding was absolutely legal.

I would only add one or two words upon the general question. I have seen it suggested that this regulation was simply the beginning of a series of persecutions of motor-cars on the part of the Office of Works, and that it might be followed by more serious restrictions in various other parts of the Metropolis. All that I can say is that even if the Prime Minister and my colleagues allowed me to act in so unreasonable a way, which I am quite sure they would not, nothing is more ludicrously far from my own intention. The reason for the regulation is a perfectly simple one. It is that certain roads in Hyde Park are greatly frequented by large numbers of persons for riding, driving, walking, and general enjoyment during certain months in the middle of the season, and, as I have said, the general inconvenience resulting to what I think may most unquestionably be called the very large majority of the people using the parks from the number of motor-cars and other mechanically-drawn carriages passing up and down, was found to be so great that it was necessary, within the limited hours when the park was most frequented, to exclude those vehicles by regulation.

The crux of the matter lies in the question whether discrimination can properly be made between different kinds of motors. I readily admit that hardship under such a regulation is felt by those who may have disposed of their horses and carriages, and who only have an electric brougham; but the difficulty of discrimination is greater than at first sight appears. I have gone into this question very carefully. I have consulted the Chief Commissioner of Police, and am bound to say that I am unable to convince myself that it is proper to put upon the police and park-keepers the responsibility of a discrimination which, although I am told it might very easily be made in nine cases out of ten, in the tenth case would lead to considerable difficulty. That is really the reason for making the regulation. So far as I personally am concerned, I take the keenest interest in motors, and hope to see them developed as rapidly as possible in this country and put to their best possible uses; but to make the suggestion, as an hon. Member of the other House did in a letter to the papers, that the motor industry in Coventry was likely to be seriously imperilled because for three hours of the day, during three months in the year, electric carriages were excluded from two or three roads in Hyde Park, seems to me one lacking so much in sense of proportion as hardly to be taken seriously. I can only say that this whole question has been fully considered, and I emphatically repeat that the regulation, for which I solely am responsible, has been passed in the interests of the large majority of persons using the park, and if Parliament or the public in general think I have been wrong, it is I, and I alone, who am to blame.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I quite agree with the noble Lord who has just sat down that there has been a great deal of exaggeration on this subject, and I am quite sure that the noble Lord has done his best to meet a difficulty which I admit to exist, but I must say I do not see why it should be impossible to draw a distinction between electric motors and other motors. They are really easy to distinguish. The noble Lord says that in nine cases out of ten it can be done, but it cannot be done in the tenth case. I am not quite sure about that. But, even if that is so, if he can reduce the number of motors in the park by nine-tenths during the hours in question he will have done a good deal to remove the difficulty. Electric broughams do not go much faster, if faster at all, than ordinary broughams drawn by fast horses; they make no smell; they are peculiarly easily managed, and I do not see why they should not be admitted although petrol motors may be excluded. I hope the noble Lord will reconsider that matter. There are people who have only an electric car, and it is hard upon them that they should be excluded from the use of the park at a time when I venture to submit their presence would do no harm to anybody.

LORD VIVIAN: My Lords, I desire to express regret at the Answer which has been given by the noble Lord the First Commissioner of Works. The explanation of the issuing of the regulation in question is that motor-cars make a noise and create a smell, and the reason for excluding electric broughams is that it is impossible to distinguish between a petrol motor and an electric motor. I think everyone will agree that the ordinary policeman can easily tell the difference, and there is a strong feeling that a great injustice has been done to electric car owners. I do not speak from any personal feeling in this matter, for I must almost apologise for possessing a petrol car. I hope the noble Lord the First Commissioner of Works will see his way at some future date to withdraw the order so far as electric cars are concerned.

Houee adjourned at Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 3rd July, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the

Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—Dover Harbour Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

Seaham Gas Bill; Swansea Corporation Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Barrymore Estate Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Hythe Corporation Bill [Lords]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

University College, London (Transfer) Bill [Lords]; Weaver Navigation Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

London County Council (Tramways) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Malvern Water Bill. As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time. —(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Mansfield Corporation Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Sandgate Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [Lords]; Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read the third time. and passed, with Amendments.

Blackpool Improvement Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That Standing Orders 204 and 235 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend The Crown Cases Act, 1848." [Criminal Cases (Reservation of Points of Law) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to remove difficulties which prevent the dealing by way of mortgage with the fee simple of certain estates of the late Thomas George Corbett, esquire, deceased, situate in the County of Lincoln; and for other purposes." [Corbett Estate Bill [Lords.]

Corbett Estate Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

LAND VALUES TAXATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Greenock, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN BILL.

Petition from Dewsbury, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

Account [presented 29th June] to be printed. [No. 222.]

PUBLIC REVENUE (INTERCEPTION).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 4th May; *Mr. Gibson Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 223.]

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD.

Copy presented, of Thirtieth Annual Report (for 1904–05), with Appendices [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 224.]

PACIFIC CABLE ACT, 1901.

Account presented, showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of the Pacific Cable Act, 1901, and of the money received, expended, and borrowed, and securities created under the said Act to the 31st March, 1905, together with a Copy of the Report of the Chairman of the Pacific Cable Board [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 225.]

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (AGRICULTURAL RETURNS).

Copy presented, of Report on the Agricultural Returns for Great Britain, with Statistics for the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and Foreign Countries for 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPLOSIVES.

Copy presented, of Twenty-ninth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, being for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Cambridge, redividing the Eastern District of the County into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FISHERY BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Twenty-third Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1904. Part III. Scientific Investigations [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Copy presented, of Statement of the estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1905–6 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 226.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Irish Education—Bilingual Scheme.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the National Board of Education has, through its inspecting staff or otherwise, taken any steps to facilitate the introduction of the bilingual scheme of education into schools in suitable places, or whether it is prepared to co-operate to any extent with managers and teachers in Irish-speaking or bilingual districts so as to enable the children to be educated through the only language they know, or the one they know best; and, if so, to what extent.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners have approved of a bilingual programme which they are prepared to sanction in suitable cases on the application of managers of national schools. I have forwarded to the hon. Member a copy of this programme, and of the instructions relating to it which have been issued by the Commissioners to their inspectors.

Suggested Abolition of a Police Hut at Gurtramough.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the negotiations which have been in progress for the sale of the Warden Estate at Sneem, he will consider the advisability of abolishing the police hut at Gurtramough on this estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Two constables are employed in affording protection to a caretaker on an evicted farm at this place. Their services cannot at present be dispensed with.

Suggested Reduction of Police Force at Sneem.

Mr. BOLAND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the diminution of cases at Sneem Petty Sessions, he will arrange for a reduction of the police force at Sneem.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) There has been no appreciable diminution of cases at Sneem Petty Sessions. It is not proposed to reduce the strength of the local police force.

Seizure of Cattle for Rent on the Beecher Estate, County Cork.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings in connection with recent attempted seizures of cattle for a half-year's rent from four tenants on the Beecher Estate, Castlemagner, county Cork; is he aware that these seizures were made in consequence of the refusal of the landlord either to sell to the tenants or to allow an abatement of the current rents; if he will say what number of policemen escorted the sheriff and bailiffs on the occasion in question, and from what districts they were drawn; and whether the sheriff and constabulary party started on this cattle-seizing expedition before daybreak; and, if so, what constabulary regulations empower policemen to act by night with a sheriff in proceedings by distraint under ordinary civil bill or other decree.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Police protection was afforded to the sheriff in the execution of writs issued by the High Courts. I have no information as to the second inquiry. The force employed consisted of thirty-five men drawn from various districts of county Cork, E.R. The seizure was made at three o'clock in the morning. The police are bound to afford protection to the sheriff in the execution of writs of this character, and such writs may be executed at any hour of the day or night.

Sanitary Condition of Cootehill Workhouse.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, considering the number of deaths in the Cootehill workhouse in January, 1904, after medical operations from alleged blood poisoning, the Local Government Board have taken any steps to ascertain the cause of death in these cases; and, in view of the difference of opinion by local experts as regards the cause of these deaths, and that the Local Government inspector reported that it was difficult to assign a direct and definite cause for the outbreak in this case, he will consider the advisability of ordering a sworn inquiry before the guardians are called upon to incur heavy expenditure for structural alterations.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Board's medical inspector has already made minute investigation into the cause of this outbreak of blood poisoning. Though he was unable to assign a definite cause for the outbreak he was strongly inclined to the opinion of the union medical officer that the source of infection was in the wards of the infirmary. In the opinion of the Board a sworn inquiry would not be likely to throw further light on the matter.

Expenditure on Cootehill Workhouse Infirmary.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what has been the total amount spent on the workhouse infirmary at Cootehill during the eight years ending 31st March, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) £68.

Defalcations of late Staff Officer of Office of Royal Irish Constabulary, Dublin.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can explain why, whilst a charge of defalcations in accounts has been brought against the late Staff Officer of the Office of the Royal Irish Constabulary, Dublin Castle, extending over a period of four years, and his widow mulcted to the extent of over £400 out of the insurance accruing to the deceased officer, these accounts do not appear to have been audited in the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, London, as is evidenced by the fact that his bank book had not been written up for some two or three years; and if the Government can see their way to refund the amount stopped to this officer's widow, in view of this accounting for expenditure of public money without accounts being properly audited.

(*Answered by Mr. Walte Long.*) There is no foundation for the suggestion that the accounts of this officer were not properly audited. The accounts were supported by vouchers furnished by him, but some of these vouchers, which purported to be receipts for money, proved to be forgeries. In addition, the bank pass book relating to the account for which the deceased was accountable was cleverly falsified after it had been written up by the officials of the bank. The reply to the concluding inquiry is in the negative.

Extra Police at Brackaville and New Mills, during Elections.

Mr. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many extra police were required at the local election of 1902 when the polling booth was at Brackaville, Coalisland; how many extra police were on duty at the recent election of 1905, when the Brackaville booth had been transferred by the returning officer to New Mills; can he state the difference in cost in the two elections and how it will be charged; and also the number of extra police on duty in Coalisland on the 1st instant, the necessity for such a draft, and its cost.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) No extra police were employed in 1902 in connection with these elections; in 1905 thirty-five extra men were employed. The cost of the extra police chargeable to the Dungannon rural district is approximately £5 10s.

Lambert Estate, County Galway.

Mr. ROCHE (Galway, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Lambert Estate, situated in the county of Galway, which includes part of the town of Athenry, is managed by the Lunacy Department of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland; that this estate is mainly agricultural and about being sold to the occupying tenants; and that it has been represented to the Lord Chancellor that the town tenants are anxious to buy at the same time; and whether, in view of the desirability, in the interest of the vendor, that this estate should be sold as a whole, he will represent to the Estates Commissioners the necessity of advancing the whole of the purchase money.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) This estate is under the control of the Lord Chancellor during the minority of the owner. The Lord Chancellor has given leave to the receiver to negotiate with the agricultural tenants for the sale to them of their holdings, but has refused an application that the town tenants should be included in the negotiations. The reply to the last inquiry is in the negative. The question there raised is one for the determination of the Estates Commissioners, subject to the review of the Judicial Commissioner.

Derry McEdmond Property, King's County.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have made arrangements with Mr. Lloyd, the owner of the Derry McEdmond property, situated in the barony of Clonlish, King's County, to purchase this estate; whether he is aware that the former tenant, Amos Palmer Doolan, paid £143 per annum rent for this holding, and that it is now let to a man named Friend, who became the tenant in 1903, at the annual rent of £75 a year; and will he say how much money the Estates Commissioners can advance to Friend should he desire to purchase; and whether, taking all the circumstances into consideration, the Estates Commissioners will take steps to secure the restoration of Amos Palmer Doolan to his former holding.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The facts appear to be as stated. The question of making the advance of £2,000, applied for by Mr. Friend, is still under consideration by the Commissioners, who expect to give their ruling thereon at an early date.

Earl of Drogheda's Estate, at Rosenallis.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a portion of the tenants upon the estate of the Earl of Drogheda, at Rosenallis, have signed agreements to purchase at terms which amount to over twenty-five years purchase, without the bonus; that over one-third of the tenants have refused to purchase at the price; and that the tenants who have signed agreements occupy the most impoverished portion of the estate and have been induced to purchase by the fact that a year's and in some instances a year and a-half's arrears have been added to the purchase price; and whether, under the circumstances, the Estates Commissioners are prepared to sanction the sale.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Agreements to purchase sixty-eight out of a total of seventy-three holdings on this property have been lodged, the average number of years purchase being 25·1. The Commissioners have no knowledge of the amount of arrears, if any, added to the purchase money. They are making further inquiry, and have not yet declared the sixty-eight holdings to be a separate estate.

Annual Meeting of Irish Protestant National Teachers' Union.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the political addresses delivered at the annual meeting of the Irish Protestant National Teachers' Union, held in Belfast, on Saturday, 24th June, in which charges were preferred and attacks made against the managers of Catholic elementary schools in Ireland; and whether, seeing that these teachers are in receipt of salary or other remuneration from the Government, and in view of the regulations governing the conduct of public servants, he will say what action he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Yes, Sir; I have seen a newspaper report of the proceedings, in which the president is stated to have denied that the Protestant teachers had ever done anything to show hostility to Roman Catholic managerial authority. The Commissioners have issued a circular to national school teachers calling their attention to the rules which require them to abstain from controversy and to avoid meetings at which questions of an objectionable character are likely to be discussed.

Maconahy Estate, County Longford.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any inspection of the Maconahy (county Longford) Estate has yet been ordered; whether he is aware that these agreements have been entered into nearly a year and a-half ago and the tenants are now being called on to pay interest without getting the vesting orders they thought they would get almost immediately; and, with a view to preventing further loss to them in this matter, will the sale be immediately sanctioned and the vesting orders be issued at once.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The agreements were lodged on August 24th last, and the lands declared an estate on November 22nd. The tenants are now being called on to pay the interest in lieu of rent which they agreed to pay pending the completion of the sale. The inspection of the estate will shortly take place.

Irish Land Purchase—Tithe Redemption.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of tenants in Ireland paying a fee-farm rent to a landlord, and also tithes, who are now called on to purchase, subject to redeeming the tithe rent-charge; whether he is aware that this charge, in the case of such holdings in county Longford, was fixed in 1826, when wheat was largely and profitably grown in Ireland; and will he see that some reduction is made to such tenants when now called on to redeem this charge.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The proper scale on which these tithes are to be redeemed in any case is a matter for the determination of the Land Commission or Land Judge. I have not any power in the matter.

Name Plates of Streets in Gaelic—Surcharge of Wicklow Urban Council.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the names of streets in several cities and towns in Ireland are indicated in the Gaelic language; whether such name plates were erected by the local authorities out of the funds at their disposal, and the payments duly passed by the auditors; whether, seeing that the auditor has recently surcharged three members of the Wicklow Urban Council in the sum of £3 3s. for signing payments for a similar purpose, he will explain why such a surcharge was made; and whether, seeing that in Wicklow town and county the Irish language is very generally spoken and used, he will order the surcharge to be withdrawn.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) If the Wicklow County Council think the surcharge illegal, they can proceed in a Court of law. If they desire to appeal on equitable grounds, they can appeal to the Local Government Board, when the matter will come before me as President of that Board. It would, therefore, be improper for me to express any opinion as to the propriety or legality of the auditor's action.

Carrickmacross Petty Sessions Clerk.

MR. MCKEAN (Monaghan, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the agent for the estate of the late Mr. Pringle is also petty sessions clerk for the Carrickmacross district, and that occasionally while acting in his official capacity he also appears before the Petty Sessions Court as plaintiff in suits against tenants on the aforementioned estate; and whether, in the public interest, he will take such steps as will lead to the resignation on the part of the official in question of one of the positions which he now holds.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I understand that the facts are substantially as stated, save that the petty sessions clerk appears not as plaintiff, but as a witness in the cases referred to. I am making further inquiry into this matter.

Irish Presbyterian Church—Appointment in the Gift of the Crown.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Executive have been in correspondence with a committee of the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church on the subject of appointments under the Crown to members of that communion; whether he is aware that the Rev. D. Reuter, in a report presented on behalf of this committee to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, stated that a number of appointments had been made through the action of this committee; what explanation, if any, has he to give for the recognition of the religious faith of the applicants as an element in the selection and appointment to places of profit under the Crown; and whether he will lay upon the Table the correspondence between the Irish Executive and this committee of the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Representations have been made to the Irish Government from time to time on behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in support of the claims of members of that Church to appointments in the gift of the Government. Similar representations have been received from various persons in favour of the selection of individuals professing other religious beliefs. All such representations have been duly acknowledged. I have not seen the report made by the reverend gentleman named in the Question. The fact that an applicant for appointment is a member of a particular religious creed in no way prejudices a fair consideration of his candidature; but the Government, in making such appointments, do not proceed on the principle suggested in the Question, with one obvious exception, namely, the appointment of chaplains. It is not proposed to lay the correspondence referred to upon the Table of the House.

Motor Vehicles in Hyde Park.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, why, in view of the provisions of Section 9 of The Parks Regulation Act, 1872, no notice was given to Parliament of the rules under which he is now excluding motor vehicles from Hyde Park.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) I have to refer my hon. friend to the Answer I have given to the hon. Member for the New Forest Division.†

Eviction of Mr. Patrick Dooley.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Patrick Dooley and his sister were evicted from their home at Ardkeenagh, county Roscommon, on June 14th, 1905, though he and the other tenants on the estate had offered terms of purchase which the agent, Mr. Ernest H. Browne, J.P., Tullamore, refused to accept; and that the police authorities assisted in carrying out the eviction in question, and subsequently allowed the tenant's house to be burnt to the ground; whether he can state by whose instructions the house was burned; and whether he will take any steps through the Estates Commissioners or otherwise for the assistance of the evicted tenant.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Negotiations were entered into for the sale of this estate in May last, but they proved abortive. The ex-tenant named in the Question was evicted for non-payment of rent, and the eviction was carried out by the sheriff, who was protected by a force of police. There is no foundation for the statement that the police allowed the house to be burnt, nor are they in a position to say at whose instigation the burning took place. I have no power to take any steps for the assistance of the evicted tenant.

King Estate, Templeboy, County Sligo.

MR. WILLIAM McKILLOP (Sligo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the King Estate, situate in the parish of Templeboy, barony of Iveragh, county of Sligo, contains two grazing ranches comprising nearly one-fifth of the entire acreage of that parish, and that the landlord is desirous of retaining these ranches with the object of reselling them to non-residential graziers; and, if so, whether steps will be taken by the Estates Commissioners, before purchase negotiations are sanctioned, to ensure that these grazing farms are included in the sale, so that the uneconomic holdings in the district may be enlarged.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) No proceedings for the sale of this estate have come before the Commissioners.

Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants—Application of Representatives of the late Patrick Byrne.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a claim for reinstatement has been received by the Estates Commissioners from the representatives of the late Patrick Byrne, Tully, Queen's County, a tenant on Lord Lansdowne's property at Luggacurran; whether he is aware that the late Mr. Byrne was evicted in 1888 out of a farm of 124

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† See page 777.

Irish acres with a good residence built by his predecessors; and, as the estate is now before the Estates Commissioners for sale and settlement, whether he can say what provision is being made for the representatives of the evicted tenant in this case.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long*). The application has been received, and will be considered by the Commissioners when dealing with the estate.

Mutilation of a Donkey at Abbeyfeale, County Limerick.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a donkey, the property of John Ahearn, of Caherlane, Abbeyfeale, county Limerick, was mutilated on the 23rd June by having its tail completely cut off; has he any report on this matter: and can he say whether any arrests have been made by the police.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The fact, I regret to say, is as stated. No arrest has yet been made by the police, but they are doing their utmost to bring the perpetrator to justice.

Boycotting at Loughrea.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to notices posted up in the neighbourhood of Loughrea, warning people to keep aloof from the occupier of the Caherhenryho Farm; will he say what action has been taken by the police with respect to these notices; and whether any clue has been obtained as to their authorship.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Yes, Sir, my attention has been directed to these notices, which were of a specially reprehensible character. They were removed by the police as soon as they were observed, and every endeavour is being made to trace their author.

Irish Town Tenants—Case of Mr. Fahy of Ballinrobe.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a notice to quit has been served on Mr. Fahy, a draper in the town of Ballinrobe, county Mayo, who has been in possession of these premises for over twenty years, has paid large sums of money for rent and repairs, and owes no arrears whatever, and is prepared to purchase the whole place; and, if so, whether, in view of similar cases, he will facilitate the passing of the Town Tenants Bill into Law.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have no knowledge of the matters referred to in the first part of the Question. I cannot undertake to give facilities for the passage of the Bill.

Grazing Lands on the Brown Hall Estate, County Mayo.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Brown Hall Estate, near Balla, county Mayo, which was purchased over two years ago by the Congested Districts Board, and on which there are several hundred acres of grazing lands, is being used by that Board for grazing purposes instead of being divided amongst the tenants and fenced; and, if so, whether he will take immediate steps to have these grass lands divided.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) As I have already informed the hon. Member, the Board's officers are engaged in rearranging these lands and preparing them for re-sale. Until this work has been completed the lands must be let for grazing.

Examination of Bag of Denis Cullinane by Constable Delaney.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a constable named Delaney accosted a man named Denis Cullinane, near Barty, who was returning from his work, and insisted on examining a bag which Cullinane carried, and which contained utensils necessary for drink which he used at dinner, and that the constable threatened to summon Cullinane if he refused to allow him to search the bag; and will he say on whose authority the constable acted in that manner.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The constable had reasonable grounds for suspecting that Cullinane's bag contained fish which had been illegally taken. He had power, under the 6th Section of 54 and 55 Vic., cap. 20, to search the bag, but the necessity for doing so did not arise, as Cullinane voluntarily showed its contents.

Arterial Drainage in Ireland.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he proposes to appoint a Committee of experts to inquire into and report upon the question of arterial drainage in Ireland; and, if so, can he state when such Committee will be constituted.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have nothing at present to add to my reply to the similar Question on Monday† last of the hon. Member for North Kildare.

Irish Education—Fees of Pupils attending Model Schools.

MR. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Treasury have yet arrived at a decision in regard to the appropriation by them of the local contributions to elementary education in Ireland in the shape of the fees paid by the pupils attending model schools; if so, what that decision is; and whether any communication on the subject has been made to the Commissioners of National Education.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Yes, Sir; I am pleased to say that the Treasury have agreed to forego their claim to these fees, which have hitherto been appropriated in aid of the Vote under an arrangement of many years standing. The sum available will be distributed amongst model school teachers, as follows:—(1) To each head mistress appointed since 1st April, 1900, £20 per annum as an allowance for residence; (2) To each head master and head mistress appointed since 1st April, 1900, £10 per annum to stand in the place of endowment or local aid; (3) The residue to be distributed among all the teachers (head teachers and assistants) at present serving, or hereafter appointed, in model schools, on the principle that the head teacher shall receive twice the share of an assistant. The distribution will take effect in the current financial year, provided the expenditure in lieu of fees can be met out of savings on the Vote.

Singleton Estate, County Louth.

MR. SHEEHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet sanctioned advances to the tenants on the Singleton Estate, county Louth, whether the Commissioners investigated the claim of Owen Kirk, an evicted tenant on the property; what inquiry, if any, was held; and what decision, if any, was made.

MR. SHEEHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Admiral Singleton is selling his estate in the county of Louth to his tenants; and, if so, whether, seeing that there are two evicted tenants from this property, Owen Kirk and Nicholas Callan, he will say if these are being restored, under purchase, to their holdings; and, if not, why this is not being done.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I will, at the same time, reply to both the hon. Member's Questions. Proceedings for the sale of this estate (which is situated in county Meath, not Louth) are pending before the Commissioners, who have inquired into the applications of the evicted tenants named, but have not yet come to a decision upon them.

The Magisterial Bench in County Cavan—Appointment of Catholics.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of appointments to the magisterial bench made in county Cavan during 1904, and up to and including the 30th May, 1905; and, further, will he state the number of such appointments conferred upon Catholics.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) During the period mentioned ten magistrates were ppointed, and, so far as is known, none of these are Catholics.

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† See page 99.

Qualifications and Examinations of Candidates for the Office of Petty Sessions Clerk in Ireland.

Mr. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what are the qualifications required from men appointed to the office of petty sessions clerk in Ireland; what is the programme of examination on which candidates are examined; and how soon after appointment does the examination take place.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Information with respect to all these matters is set out in two lengthy printed circulars, copies of which I have forwarded to the hon. Member.

Sales of Irish Estates under the Land Act of 1903.

Mr. O'DOWD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will he state what is the total amount of the purchase money of the estates for the sale of which agreements have been lodged with the Estates Commissioners under the Act of 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The amount of the purchase money in respect of direct sales is £21,987,135, of which £5,438,517 has been advanced. The amount in respect of sales under Sections 6, 7, and 8 of the Act and of sales to the Congested Districts Board is £4,573,727, of which £984,787 has been advanced.

Circular to Irish National School Teachers.

Mr. O'DOWD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the terms or nature of the circular recently issued by the Board of Education in Ireland to the Irish national teachers; and will he say whether the issue of such a circular was due to incidents arising out of a dinner held in connection with the teachers' annual congress during Easter week in Sligo.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have sent to the hon. Member a copy of the circular, which was published in the Dublin newspapers. The Answer to the second inquiry is in the affirmative.

Issue of a Receivable Order against Mrs. Margaret Conlan.

Mr. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mrs. Margaret Conlan, of Mullaghanard, Rosenallis, Queen's County, a tenant on the estate of the Earl of Drogheda, has been served with a receivable order for interest in lieu of rent, amounting for five months to £6s 5. 10*d*., which represents twenty-eight years purchase of the present rent of her farm; and whether, as Mrs. Conlan states she signed no agreement to purchase, he can say what course the Estates Commissioners are going to take in this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) This receivable order was issued in error, and Mrs. Conlan has been so informed by the Commissioners. No proceedings for sale to her are before the Commissioners.

The Derry McEdmond Properties, Kings County.

Mr. REDDY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can give the date on which Mr. Friend became tenant of the holding on the Derry McEdmond properties, situated in the barony of Clonlish, King's County, and whether the Land Purchase Act provides that the Estates Commissioners cannot advance more than £500 for the purchase of a holding the occupier of which became tenant since January 1st, 1901; and what steps, if any, the Estates Commissioners are taking to reinstate the evicted tenant, Amos Palmer Doolan.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Mr. Friend became tenant on August 17th, 1903. Section 53 (1) of the Act of that year provides that the limitation mentioned may be exceeded in certain circumstances in a non-congested county. The Commissioners have not yet come to a decision as to Doolan's holding.

Advances under the Land Purchase Act.

Mr. VINCENT KENNEDY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the amount of the advances applied for under the Land Purchase (Ireland) Act, 1903, up to and including 30th June, 1905, the amount which has been actually advanced, and the amount sanctioned; and what is the date of the receipt of the agreements which are being dealt with now by the Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have answered the first inquiry in reply to the Question which the hon. Member for South Sligo has just put. I am making inquiry as to the latter part of the Question.

Fines Imposed under the Weights and Measures Act.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what becomes of fines imposed under the Weights and Measures Act; whether fines under the Food and Drugs Act are transferred to county councils; and whether he will take steps to have the fines imposed under the former treated in the same manner as those in the latter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Fines under the Weights and Measures Act are payable by statute to the Crown, and fines under the Food and Drugs Act to the prosecuting local authority. I am not prepared to introduce legislation to alter the application of these penalties.

Farm of late Matthew Mooney, of Kilross, Tipperary.

MR. CULLINAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps have recently been taken by the Estates Commissioners to purchase from Count Moore the evicted farm of the late Matthew Mooney, Kilross, Tipperary; and whether, as the landlord informed the widow of the evicted tenant that he was willing to sell the holding to the Estates Commissioners, he will state what is the cause of delay in completing the negotiations.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners have made an offer for the purchase of this farm, but the offer has not yet been accepted.

Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.

MR. HAMMOND (Carlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he would state what was the balance to credit of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account on March 31st, 1905, as compared with that on the same date of preceding year; and what were the receipts and expenditure in connection with the same account for the year ending March 31st, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The credit balance on March 31st, 1905, was £221,478 15s. 3d., and on March 31st, 1904, it was £213,361 16s. 5d. The receipts for the year ending March 31st, 1905, amounted to £1,430,528 10s. 6d., and the expenditure to £1,422,411 11s. 8d.

Mr. Rider Haggard's Report.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government proposes to take action on Mr. Rider Haggard's Report on the Salvation Army Colonies and Scheme of National Land Settlement; and, if so, when, and in what manner; whether it proposes to send a Commissioner to South Africa, as suggested by Mr. Rider Haggard, to inquire into the suitability of that country for land settlements under the scheme which he has formulated; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to appoint Mr. Rider Haggard to be a Commissioner to report upon the possibility of establishing land colonies on similar lines, and managed by the same machinery, within the United Kingdom, as Mr. Commissioner Haggard offers to do in paragraph 39 of his Report.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The importance and difficulty of the subject dealt with in Mr. Rider Haggard's Report have induced me to propose the appointment of a Departmental Committee to consider the questions raised in that Report in the light of the large experience gained from previous schemes of colonisation. I am not prepared at present to reply further to the Question of my right hon. friend.

White Slave Traffic Convention.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the ratifications by all the contracting States who were parties to the International Convention respecting the White Slave Traffic, signed at Paris on May 18th, 1904, have now been deposited; and whether, in view of the fact that the Convention will come into force throughout Europe on 18th July next, the text of the documents embodying its terms, as well as the Papers relating to the International Diplomatic Conference held at Paris in July, 1902, will now be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Earl Percy.*) There still remain three States who have not, as yet, deposited their ratifications, but it is competent for them to do so before the 18th instant. After that date the Convention will be published in the Treaty Series, and a certain number of copies of the correspondence will be delivered to both Houses of Parliament, as was done in 1881, for the use of Members who may wish to refer to it.

Price of Sugar in Great Britain and on the Continent.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he will state, in supplement of Return No. 174, lately issued, what was the price per pound retail of the kind of sugar most largely consumed by the working classes, whether refined or unrefined, on or about the 1st day of March, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, and 1905, in the capital cities of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Holland, Russia, Denmark, and Great Britain respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) There are no official records of retail prices of this kind of sugar in foreign countries, but inquiry shall be made whether it is possible to obtain the desired figures for the years referred to.

Alien Immigrants.

MR. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade what was the number of alien immigrants brought into the port of London and other United Kingdom ports respectively, in British and foreign ships respectively, during the year 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The following statement gives the number of alien passengers shown in the alien lists obtained under Act 6 Will. IV., c. 11, s. 2, to have arrived in 1904 at the port of London and at other ports of the United Kingdom, including aliens in transit from ports on the Continent of Europe, distinguishing those brought by British and foreign vessels:—

	Port of London.	Other Ports of the United Kingdom.
Brought by British vessels.	2,180	93,283
Brought by foreign vessels.	49,376	50,147
	51,556	143,430

Tuberculosis in Fowls.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has information to what extent this season tuberculosis is found in fowls; and will he cause inquiry to be made and information laid before the Commission on Tuberculosis with a view to ascertaining whether that disease bears relation to that found in man, and may be communicated to man in foods.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) We have no information to show that the disease in question is specially prevalent amongst poultry this season, but I will bring the suggestion of my hon. friend under the notice of the Royal Commission. I may add that we have prepared and issued a leaflet on the subject, with copies of which I shall be glad to supply him.

Superannuation Allowance of Mr. L. J. Hall, of Barnsley.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the causes of the delay in dealing with the question of the superannuation allowance of Mr. L. J. Hall, late school attendance officer of the Barnsley Union; and whether he will cause such inquiries to be made and such orders to be issued or directions given as will enable the guardians or the county council to pay the regulation superannuation to which Mr. Hall is entitled, and the increase which the guardians have recommended he should receive.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The question of the superannuation allowance to Mr. Hall has stood over pending the issue of the General Order which the Local Government Board propose to make under paragraph 19 of the Second Schedule to the Education Act, 1902. Having regard, however, to the special circumstances of Mr. Hall's case, I am communicating with the West Riding County Council with a view to payment of the allowance being made at once.

Superannuation Allowances of Poor Law Officers.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Board propose to issue an Order under paragraph 19 of the Second Schedule to the Education Act, 1902, to deal with the question of the superannuation allowance payable to Poor Law officers under the Poor Law Officers Superannuation Act, 1896, who are transferred by the Education Act to any council; and, if so, when such Order will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) An Order is in preparation dealing with this matter, and I hope it will shortly be issued.

Date of Introduction of Naval Works Bill.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty when the Naval Works Bill will be introduced.

(*Answered by Mr. Arthur Lee.*) No date has yet been fixed for the introduction of the Bill referred to in the hon. Member's Question.

By-laws under Employment of Children Act.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can grant a Return of the negotiations between the London County Council, the Corporation of the City of London, the borough of Eastbourne, and the borough of Croydon with his Department upon the subject of by-laws under the Employment of Children Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) In none of these cases have the by-laws yet been finally settled. I regret that I cannot undertake to grant the Return desired by the hon. Member.

Violation of Conscience Clause at a School in Broadway, Worcestershire.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been drawn to a violation of the conscience clause at a school in Broadway, in Worcestershire, in connection with a child named Johnston; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The Board have received a communication as to an alleged breach of the conscience clause from the managers of the school; but no complaint has reached the Board from the parents of the child in question. The Worcestershire Education Committee are at present making a thorough investigation of the case. At present there seems to be nothing to call for action on the part of the Board.

Allowances to Postmen Performing Station Duties not under Supervision and Mail-Apparatus Duty.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General when he intends to grant the 3s. allowance to all postmen performing station duties not under supervision and mail-apparatus duty.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Particulars are being obtained of the duties affected, and the various cases will be dealt with in due course.

Delay in Paying Rebate on Coal Duty at Cardiff.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that inconvenience is caused to coal exporters carrying on business at Swansea by the undue delay of the Customs authorities in paying the rebate on the coal duty on coal exported at a price not exceeding 6s. per ton f.o.b.; have complaints as to such delay been made to him; and will he take steps to secure the repayment of the rebate within a reasonable time.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The only allegation of delay in repayment of coal duty which has reached the Board of Customs from Swansea was addressed to them from the firm whose representative was the only witness before the Coal Commission, out of the large number of persons examined, who raised this point. The dissatisfaction at the procedure of the Customs is therefore apparently not general, and, indeed, there seems to be no cause for it, as I am assured that the rebate claims, when in order, are invariably passed for payment within a few days of receipt. But, if the hon. Member will give any instances where delay has occurred, I will have careful inquiry made.

Amount of Carriage and Motor Car-Duty.

MR. BROOKE ROBINSON (Dudley): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the amount paid to the Exchequer during the past financial year in respect of carriage licences for horse-drawn carriages and for motor-propelled carriages respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) No, Sir. No distinction is drawn in the books of the Inland Revenue Department between horse-drawn and motor-propelled carriages of under one ton or over five tons in weight, no additional duty being chargeable on motor-cars outside those limits.

Veterinary Inspection in Ireland.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland (1) what was the total amount paid in Ireland to local veterinary inspectors for salaries, fees, and expenses for each of the years 1903 and 1904; (2) how much of the total was paid out of local funds, and how much otherwise; (3) how much has the Department of Agriculture in Ireland at its disposal annually for veterinary inspection; (4) what was the total cost of the Veterinary Department, which has its offices at Dublin Castle, in each of the years 1903 and 1904 over and above the cost of the system of local veterinary inspection mentioned in the first paragraph; how much of the cost of Veterinary Department directed from Dublin Castle was paid in the years mentioned in respect of salaries, travelling expenses, and subsistence allowances, compensation for animals ordered to be destroyed, and other fees and expenses respectively

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) (1) The amounts paid to the veterinary inspectors employed by the local authorities, as distinct from those employed by the Department, were:—Year ended 31st December, 1903, £8,671 15s. 1d; year ended 31st December, 1904, £8,931 10s. 0d. (2) The whole of these amounts was paid by the various county and county borough councils out of local funds. One-half is eventually recouped to local authorities out of the General Cattle Diseases Fund, which fund, however, is derived from local assessments. (3)—(a) The salaries and expenses of veterinary inspectors employed by the Department at the various ports are provided in the Annual Parliamentary Vote. The expenditure in the year ended 31st March last was £8,273 19s. 11d. (b) The cost of veterinary inspectors employed by the Department in connection with the administration of the Disseaes of Animals Acts is paid out of the Parliamentary Grant in Aid. The cost in the year ended 31st March last amounted to £12,722 9s. (4) The total cost of the veterinary branch, and the expenses under the various heads enumerated, were as follows:—

	Out of Parliamentary Vote.			Out of Parliamentary Grant in aid for Swine Fever, etc.			Total.		
	1903–4.								
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries, Wages, and Fees -	12,563	3	8	7,100	9	3	19,663	12	11
Travelling and subsistence allowances - - -	2,299	11	2	3,707	19	5	6,007	10	7
Compensation for animals destroyed, less salvage on carcases - - - -	—			6,155	9	7	6,155	9	7
Other Expenses - -	128	5	7	1,013	18	1	1,142	3	8
	14,991	0	5	17,977	16	4	32,968	16	9
	1904–5.								
Salaries, etc. - - -	12,685	13	1	7,313	12	4	19,999	5	5
Travelling, etc. - - -	2,072	13	9	4,089	10	4	6,162	4	1
Compensation, etc. - -	—			5,854	14	10	5,854	14	10
Other Expenses - - -	135	8	9	1,319	6	4	1,454	15	1
	14,893	15	7	18,577	3	10	33,470	19	5

Anketell Jones Estate, Newport, County Mayo.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Congested Districts Board have purchased the Anketell Jones Estate, at Burrisboole, Newport, county Mayo; and, if so, will he say at what number of years purchase of first and second-term rents; what is the average Poor Law valuation of each tenant on this estate; how many acres are offered for redistribution amongst the congested tenantry; and whether some 3,600 acres have been reserved by Mr. Jones.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Board have purchased a portion, namely, 3,123 acres of this estate, of which 2,542 acres are tenanted and 581 acres untenanted. The number of years' purchase was nineteen in the case of first-term rents, and twenty-two in the case of second-term rents. The average Poor Law valuation of the seventy tenants on the estate is £5 2s. per annum. The 581 acres of untenanted land on the estate, and probably other untenanted land, will be used to enlarge the holdings. The Board understand that the vendor has retained about 2,700 acres of land.

Extra Police at Dualla, County Tipperary.

MR. CONDON (Tipperary, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland at whose instance and with what object a force of extra police, mostly armed with rifles, including a corps of cyclists, together with a Government note-taker, were drafted into the village of Dualla, county Tipperary, on Sunday, 11th June, in view of the peaceful condition of Dualla and the district; and will he say who will have to bear the cost.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The police, of whom only six out of thirty-six were armed with rifles, attended at the instance of the Government, with the object of preserving the public peace on the occasion of a public meeting, at which there was reason to apprehend that intimidation would be used towards individuals in the locality. The cost of the police so employed will be borne by the Constabulary Vote.

Salary of Mr. Thomas Larkin, of Roscommon National School.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland why it is that Mr. Thomas Larkin, of Roscommon National School, whose character as a teacher is excellent, has got no increment since the new rules came into operation.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) This teacher is in the first division of the first grade, and a very high standard of efficiency is required to warrant an increment of good service salary in this grade. Mr. Larkin's school has not maintained the necessary standard of efficiency for the past three years, and hence no increment has been granted.

Salaries of Irish Teachers.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state (a) how many teachers in Ireland are at present receiving the maximum salary of 1 (1) grade; (b) how many teachers classed 1 (1) grade under the new rules have since got increments.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) (a) 115; (b) 209.

Grazing Farms on the King-Harman Estate.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners can state in how many cases they have purchased from the vendor of the King-Harman Estate large grazing farms for distribution amongst the owners of small holdings; and what is the total difference in the amount of the bonus payable in these cases, first, for these farms if sold as tenanted lands, and, secondly, for the same farms if sold as untenanted lands.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners have not yet purchased any of the grazing farms referred to.

Claims for Commandeered Property during South African War.

MR. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received the final Report of the Central Judicial Commission appointed to investigate the claims based on receipts or vouchers given by British officers to Dutch burghers in respect of cattle or other property taken for Army purposes during the South African War; and whether he can state the number of such receipts or vouchers issued, the number of them now for any reason remaining unpaid, and the amount of money which such unpaid receipts or vouchers represent.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I have not yet received the final Report of the Central Judicial Commission, and am not yet in a position to give the figures.

Patrick M'Mahon, late Royal Irish Regiment.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.); To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Patrick M'Mahon, now residing in William Street, Wexford, joined the permanent staff of the Royal Irish Regiment, 3rd Battalion, on the 16th June, 1870, and continued in the service for fourteen years and ten months, and at the end of that time joined the Line service of the Irish Regiment for seven years, and on the 16th June, 1897, joined again for a further period of four years, and war having broken out in South Africa he was called to the colours on the 20th June, 1900; whether he is aware that M'Mahon was discharged on the 16th June, 1902, after twenty-four years service, without a pension; and whether, seeing that this man is now in failing health and unable to support his wife and family, he will order an inquiry into this case with a view to granting a pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The case is being investigated, and a reply as to the man's eligibility for pension will be forwarded to the hon. Member.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Submarines—Utility in Naval Warfare—Japanese Experiences.

Sir JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether the Board of Admiralty is in possession of information that submarine boats corresponding to those built and equipped in this country have been employed by the Japanese in their recent naval warfare; whether the evidence at the inquiries into the three fatal casualties to Submarines 1, 5, and 8, of their limited buoyancy, and numerous mechanical and chemical complications, has satisfied the Board that, as instruments of warfare, such submarines must be more dangerous to their users than to the vessels they are intended to assail; and whether the Board will give directions that the building of such vessels shall cease until their utility and safety is more satisfactorily demonstrated.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The Admiralty are not prepared to give any information concerning the war vessels of either of the belligerent Powers. With regard to the second part of the hon. Member's Question, there is nothing in the accidents that have occurred to suggest that these boats cannot be safely handled on any service on which they may be employed. The Admiralty consider that their utility has been amply demonstrated during the extensive work carried out by them during the last three years, and they intend to continue the construction of such vessels.

Boom Defence Experiments.

Mr. HOZIER (Lanarkshire, S.): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether, in the event of further experiments in boom defence being made at Portland or elsewhere, precautions will in future be taken to prevent newspaper correspondents and photographers from obtaining and publishing particulars.

Mr. PRETYMAN: Any necessary precautions will be taken, but in some cases local conditions make prevention difficult.

Outfit Allowances for Naval Volunteer Officers.

Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that an outfit allowance of £20 is granted to Volunteer land officers under certain specified conditions, and that the wear and tear of a naval officer's uniform is greater than that of a Volunteer land officer, the same assistance will be afforded to officers of the Naval Volunteers as to officers of the land Volunteers.

Mr. PRETYMAN: Representations on the subject referred to by the hon. Member have been made, and it is now under consideration.

Admiralty Buildings Flag.

Captain JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty why the flag on the Admiralty buildings is not hauled down at sunset.

Mr. PRETYMAN: It is the custom in the naval service to haul down the colours at sunset, but the flag of the Admiralty, like the flag of an admiral or the pendant of a commodore or captain, is a symbol of authority, and it has therefore been ordered to be kept flying.

War Stores Wastage Inquiry.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the amount that has been paid or incurred for stores of all descriptions delivered in South Africa between July 1st, 1902, and March 31st, 1905; the value of such stores as were consumed during that period; the amount received for stores which were sold; the estimated value of the stores which had not been consumed or sold on March 31st, 1905; and what amounts have been included in the accounts of 1903–4 and 1904–5 as appropriations-in-aid.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): For the purposes of such a Return the information to be found in the accounts at home requires to be supplemented by facts contained in documents in South Africa. I have called for the fullest Report from South Africa, and as soon as it is possible to do so a Return giving all the information available will be laid.

Lord Milner and the South African War Stores.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the statement of Colonel Morgan before the Butler Commission that, in the presence of General Lyttelton and another, Lord Milner refused to make any further purchases of supplies from the Army for repatriation; whether he is aware that this refusal of Lord Milner was based on the ground that the making of these purchases would not be fair to the local merchants; whether General Lyttelton communicated to the War Office authorities this refusal of Lord Milner, whereby the main source of custom for the Army stores, to the loss of the taxpayer, was shut off; and, if so, what was the reply of the War Office; and whether he will lay this correspondence upon the Table.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: My attention has been drawn to the statement mentioned. No communication from General Lyttelton on this matter can be traced at the War Office, but General Lyttelton informs me that he and Brigadier-General Lawson were present at a meeting which is presumably the one referred to. Their recollection is to the effect that the discussion was on the allotment of trucks between the civil and the military, and they do not remember that anything was said by Lord Milner in the sense referred to.

Officers' Costs before the Stores Commission.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if, in view of the circumstances of the officers referred to in the Report of the Butler Committee, provision will be made, according to the general rule prevailing in the Civil Service, for the recovery of their costs before the Royal Commission if they are declared blameless.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: This question is receiving the careful consideration of the Government.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman take care that no injustice is done to these officers?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, Sir.

The War Stores Inquiry—Destruction of War Office Documents.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when did he receive the Report of the Butler Committee in which the destruction of documents relating to the contracts and refunds in South Africa was a matter of comment; and what explanation has he, if any, for the fact that no immediate steps were taken by him to impound all documents connected with the subject of the inquiries of the Butler Committee.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Report was submitted on the 22nd May and was considered by the Army Council on the 25th of that month. Orders were given on that day to impound all office papers and documents which had been under the consideration of the Butler Committee. It was subsequently decided to extend this impounding also to all the documents in South Africa bearing on the cases to be brought before the Royal Commission.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said the date of the impounding was June 19th, the day before Parliament met after the Whitsuntide Recess. Were not the documents left all that time to the free will of gentlemen who might be disposed to destroy them?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: All the documents were in the custody of the Department.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Has the right hon. Gentleman means of knowing if any of them were destroyed for the purpose of suppressing evidence?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: The Report says so.

Lord Kitchener's Stores Estimate.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can furnish an account of the surplus animals and articles handed over to the Sales Department in South Africa, as reported by Lord Kitchener in his telegram of June 18th, 1902, and estimated by him to involve six or seven millions of money; and whether he can state the amount realised by the sale of these surplus stores, as distinguished from any other stores then in South Africa but not included by Lord Kitchener in his estimate, or which arrived there after the date of the estimate.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The information required will be included as far as possible in the Return which will be furnished to the House.

In answer to a further Question,

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he did not know if the investigation would enable them to distinguish in all cases between the stores referred to by Lord Kitchener and those provided afterwards, but he hoped it would.

South African War Stores—War Office Employee's Transactions.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War at what date did the War Office become aware of the fact that on October 26th, 1902, the Sales Department in South Africa accepted a tender for surplus stores from a person named Saunders employed in that Department; and what action was taken with regard to the officer who ordered or permitted this irregularity.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: This is one of the questions which will come within the purview of the Royal Commission.

MR. WHITLEY said the first part of his Question had simply reference to the date.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said this, with the other questions in reference to the subject, would be a matter of inquiry.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Do the War Office not know whether they are guilty or innocent until they are tried?

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham): Is all information to be withheld from the House simply because these matters are to form the subject of inquiry?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I imagine that all matters which will be at issue before the Commissioners should be left to them.

MR. CHURCHILL said he could not understand why the House should not have a plain Answer to a simple Question.

Defective Ammunition.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether ammunition has been supplied by Messrs. Kynochs which has proved to be of a defective character; whether it has been bought back by them at a reduced rate; if so, what was the price paid and received by the Government.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Some supplies of ammunition made by Kynoch deteriorated in the service and were found to be defective. No such ammunition was, however, bought back by the firm.

War Stores Commission.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S,): Will the Government lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Royal Commission giving the King's sanction and the statutory powers conferred on the Commission for the purpose of conducting their investigations.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I am informed that the Commission was published in the *Gazette* last Friday, but if it will be for the convenience of the House I am quite prepared to lay it on the Table.

Enlistment Standards for Regulars and Volunteers.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can inform the House what is the standard height, weight, and chest measurement of recruits for infantry of the Line and of the Volunteer force at the present time; what allowances are made in respect of those standards in the case of lads likely to come up thereto after twelve months physical exercises; and if the medical officers now making inspection of the recruits in the London Volunteer Force will be so instructed, and the reports of their examinations published.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The standards are fully given in the Recruiting Regulations and Volunteer Regulations as amended by Army Orders from time to time. As regards the Regulars, the chest measurement is strictly adhered to, departures from the limits as regards height and age are only permitted in special cases on the authority of the Adjutant-General. There is no standard weight, the figures being given only as a guide. As regards Volunteers the standard is fixed at a scale from which it is not desirable to authorise any departure.

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): Is it the case, as stated in the Press, that the War Office is declaring that all Volunteers under nineteen years of age are unfit for service? I know that is not true, but it is well the report should be officially contradicted.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is not true.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not usual to quote statements in the Press and found a Question on them.

*MR. McCRAE: Will the right hon. Gentleman publish the new regulations on the subject?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There are none.

Volunteer Statistics.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the number of battalions of infantry Volunteers not in the field army; what were the number of efficients in the years ending 31st October, 1903, and 1904; and what is the annual cost of those battalions, including grant, camp, and other allowances.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There are 198 Volunteer infantry battalions not included in the field army. On 1st November, 1903, and 1st November, 1904, the number of efficients in the battalions which were not in the field army on those dates were 153,653 and 154,950 respectively. The total cost for the year 1904–5 of the above numbers was approximately £900,000.

Army Commissions.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many candidates for commissions in the Army have been rejected since 1st January, 1905, owing to their obtaining an insufficient number of marks in competitive examination; how many have been admitted without obtaining any marks at all in this examination; and on what grounds distinction has been made between the candidates.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Since the 1st January, 1905, thirty-four candidates have failed at the competitive examination for admission to the Army. In view of the shortage of officers in the Household Cavalry and Guards twenty-three gentlemen have been nominated on probation without passing the competitive examination, but subject to passing a professional examination after two years probationary service, their commissions as second lieutenant to bear date from passing this examination. Of these twenty-three two were included in the thirty-four mentioned above.

Major SEELY said the right hon. Gentleman had not explained on what ground distinction was made between candidates.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said no distinction was made. Officers were nominated by the officer commanding the regiment according to his idea of the fitness of the officer in question.

Major SEELY: Why were none of the commissions given to rejected candidates who were anxious to obtain nominations?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The War Office had no control over the nomination.

Mr. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): Were these candidates educated at public schools?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I cannot say.

Military Courts-Martial—Revision of Proceedings.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will say in how many cases of Courts-martial were the proceedings submitted last year to the office of the Judge Advocate-General, in how many of them were the convictions affirmed, in how many were they found to be irregular or illegal, and in how many had the sentences been wholly or partly served before such irregularity or illegality was ascertained by the Judge Advocate-General.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: During 1904 the proceedings of 8,820 Courts-martial were received in the Judge Advocate-General's office. In forty-five cases the convictions were wholly upset, in seventy-five partly upset, and in 184 cases there were irregularities which did not necessitate interference with the conviction. There were also sixty-nine cases in which the convictions were not confirmed or were quashed by the military authorities. In all cases in which a sentence of imprisonment had been confirmed and ultimately quashed by the Judge Advocate-General a portion at least of this sentence had necessarily been served.

Deputy Judge Advocate-General.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the appointment of Deputy Judge Advocate-General held by the late Sir John Scott has been filled up by the appointment of a salaried legal official obliged to give his whole time to the duties; if so, who is this gentleman; when, by whom, and for what period was he appointed, whether the acting official is under any such obligation, or is at liberty to practise as a junior barrister; on what terms and for what period is he employed; and whether he is the only paid legal adviser in the Department, or whether the services of any additional lawyer to assist in the Department have been obtained during the illness or since the death of the Judge Advocate-General.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The post of Deputy Judge Advocate-General has been filled up by the temporary appointment of Mr. E. Bonus. He is not at present obliged to give his whole time, owing to the fact that when he was appointed changes were in contemplation and it was considered that under these circumstances he should not be deprived of his practice. He was temporarily appointed by the late Sir F. Jeune, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, in March, 1904. He is allowed to practise as a junior, subject to doing the work of his office. His salary is £1,000 a year. He is the only paid legal adviser in the Department. The arrangement was a temporary one.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL asked whether Courts-martial were left to the revision of a junior barrister practising in the Courts every day, and were not subject to the revision of the House.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: They are not subject to the revision of this House and never have been.

Sir HENRY FOWLER asked whether the work of revision did not require that the official should give his whole time.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I think it does. We intend to appoint at an early date an official who will give his whole time.

Purchase of Requirements by Officers.

MR. EDWARD MITCHELL (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if any instructions are given to officers in the Army to procure, where possible, their requirements locally, so that the towns in which they are quartered may not be deprived of their outlay; and, if no such instructions at present exist, will he consider the advisability of giving them.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Officers are at liberty to make their purchases wherever they please; no instructions have been given for them to obtain their supplies locally, nor is it considered advisable to issue such instructions.

Indian Army Organisation Scheme.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the modifications in the Army organisation scheme, proposed by the Viceroy, have been accepted by the Government; and what is the nature and extent of these modifications.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have nothing to add to what I said on this subject on Thursday† last.

MR. BUCHANAN: I shall put the Question again another day.

MR. CHURCHILL: When do the Government propose to give an opportunity to discuss these very grave matters?

MR. BRODRICK: I do not know what opportunity the hon. Member refers to. I have no power to arrange the business of the House.

The Viceroy and Indian Army Reform.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received from the Viceroy of India a communication that unless certain modifications in the proposed new scheme of Indian Army administration are agreed to by the Cabinet his resignation will take place; and, if so, when was such a communication received, and what are its precise terms and what are the precise modifications in the scheme desired by the Viceroy and Government of India.

MR. BRODRICK: I have nothing to add to what I said on this subject on Thursday ‡ last.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I shall repeat this Question.

Macedonian Reforms.

MR. NOEL BUXTON (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the scheme agreed upon by the Great Powers for the control of the finances of Macedonia embodies the proposal of Lord Lansdowne that the province of Adrianople should be included in the area to be controlled.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): The collective note of the Powers to the Porte only refers to the three vilayets of Salonica, Kessovo, and Monastir.

MR. NOEL BUXTON asked if the Government still adhered to the suggestion that the vilayet of Adrianople ought to be included in the scheme.

EARL PERCY said the Government certainly did adhere very strongly to the opinion that it was desirable to include Adrianople in the scheme, but they did not press it in view of the opinion of the other Powers that to do so would postpone the introduction of other reforms it was desirable to introduce.

In answer to Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.),

EARL PERCY said the Government certainly desired the inclusion.

MR. CHURCHILL complained that it was quite impossible to hear the Answer on the other side of the House.

EARL PERCY repeated that the Government still attached great importance to the inclusion of the vilayet of Adrianople in the scheme, but did not press for it, as the other Powers feared it might delay still more necessary reforms.

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† See page 545.

‡ See page 545.

The Odessa Troubles.

Mr. BROTHERTON (Wakefield): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if friendly representations can be made to the Russian Government by which the treaty exclusion of foreign warships from the Black Sea may be temporarily suspended in order to safeguard British subjects from danger.

Earl PERCY: The present circumstances at Odessa do not afford sufficient grounds for claiming a departure from the rule under which foreign warships are excluded from the Straits. There is nothing to show that the Russian Government have not adequate means for protecting British subjects in common with the rest of the population, nor that the arrival of British ships of war would improve the situation.

Departmental Committee on Income-Tax.

Major EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered the Report of the Departmental Committee on Income-Tax; and what steps he proposes to take in regard to the recommendations made.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): I have not yet had time to consider this important Report, but I shall not in any case propose legislation on the subject this session. The state of public business would make it impossible to deal with so difficult and complicated a question this year.

Foreign Banks and Income-Tax.

Major EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether foreign banking firms with branches established in this country pay income-tax; and, if so, how and on what part of the profits the amount is assessed.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Foreign banking firms having branches established in this country pay income-tax. Assuming that the head office and chief seat of control are out of the United Kingdom, income tax is assessed, in accordance with the rules of Schedule D., on the profits arising from the business carried on within the United Kingdom.

Major EVANS GORDON asked if balance-sheets were published by these firms.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot undertake to say what balance-sheets are published by foreign firms trading in this country.

Major EVANS GORDON said the object of his Question was to ascertain if there were any means of checking the assessments and returns made by these firms.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said there were the same means of checking the returns as there were in reference to other firms. Primarily the Commissioners were dependent on the declaration of individuals, but this *prima facie* evidence did not prevent the Commissioners from pursuing inquiries of their own, nor did it necessitate their acceptance of the statements made.

British-Born Aliens.

Mr. WHITLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce words into the Aliens Bill to prevent a person who was born in the United Kingdom from being treated as an alien immigrant if he desires to return to the United Kingdom after having been naturalised in another country.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): I am considering with the Attorney-General the form of an Amendment, to be inserted in Clause 8, which will prevent a person of British parentage from being treated as an alien immigrant in the circumstances to which the hon. Member refers.

Mr. WHITLEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman put the Amendment down in his own name?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Yes, if as a result of consideration one is drafted.

Cruelty to Animals Act.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has observed that the Hurlingham Club has decided to abolish pigeon shooting; and whether, in view of that fact, he will propose legislation next session in order to extend the Cruelty to Animals Act to wild creatures kept in confinement and released for the immediate purpose of being hunted or shot.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I have seen the announcement about the Hurlingham Club to which the hon. Member refers, and I was glad to see it; but I am not prepared to undertake legislation on the subject.

Proposal to Impound Offending Motor-Cars.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Local Government Board if, in view of breaches of the Motor-Car Act, he will consider the expediency of giving magistrates power to impound offending cars for a period varying from six days to six months.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Government propose that there should be an inquiry as to the working of the Motor-Car Acts and as to any Amendments which should be made in them. The suggestion of the hon. Member would come within the scope of the inquiry.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): Will the inquiry be by way of Royal Commission or by a Departmental Committee?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am not prepared to say at present.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will it be this year?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir.

Boarding out of Pauper Children.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he can state when the new Boarding-out Order promised some time back will be issued.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The new Order has now been settled, and will be issued shortly.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: In view of the great inconvenience caused by the delay, will the right hon. Gentleman issue the Order as soon as possible?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes; no time shall be lost.

The "Kew Bulletin."

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that the *Kew Bulletin* has not been issued for some four or five years; and can he state why its publication has ceased.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES, Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): Owing to the increasing demands upon the scientific staff at Kew in recent years it has not been found possible, since 1899, to issue any further numbers of the *Kew Bulletin.* The information formerly given in the appendices is, however, still published year by year, and the articles which appeared from time to time with regard to the diseases of trees and crops are now printed in the journal and leaflets issued by the Board of Agriculture. The *Bulletin* served a useful purpose, as is evidenced by the fact that its published numbers are still in continuous demand; but I am doubtful whether the issue of further numbers would justify the additional expenditure which would be entailed. I shall be glad, however, to look more closely into the matter.

Committee on the Companies Act.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether the Committee on the Companies Act has completed its inquiry, and when the Report may be expected.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Committee has not yet completed its inquiry but is still holding regular sittings; it is impossible to give any date by which the Report of the Committee may be expected.

Preferential Railway Rates for Foreigners.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Great Eastern Railway Company will convey a piano weighing 7 cwts. 7 lbs. from Germany to Cardiff for 43s. 4d., whereas the London and North-Western Railway Company charge 57s. 9d. for carrying a piano weighing 5 cwts. 2 qrs. from London to Cardiff; and also that the through freight rate for butter from Rotterdam to Cardiff is 43s. 4d. per ton, while the railway rate from Parkeston to Cardiff is 46s. 8d. per ton, and whether he will grant an inquiry into the whole question of railway rates as operating to the advantage of the foreign trader.

MR. BONAR LAW: The Board of Trade have communicated with the Great Eastern Railway Company as to the rates referred to, and are informed that the company have no through rate for pianos from Germany to Cardiff, and that, whilst the rate for butter from Rotterdam to Cardiff is 43s. 4d. per ton as stated, the rate from Parkeston to Cardiff is 35s. per ton, and not 46s. 8d. A Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture is already making inquiry whether preferential treatment is accorded by railway companies to foreign farm, dairy, and market-garden produce as compared with home produce.

Parks Regulation Act—Parliament and Rules and Regulations.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether, in view of the fact that Section 9 of the Parks Regulation Act, 1872, provides for the laying before both Houses of Parliament of any rules made by the Office of Works under Schedule I. of the Act, he will explain why the recent rule regarding motor-cars was not laid before Parliament for the statutory time.

*LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I have to refer my hon. friend to the reply given to the hon. Baronet the Member for Barrow-in-Furness on June 27th†; also to the judgment in the recent case of Musgrave *v.* Kennison in the High Court (June 8th).

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU: Do I understand the noble Lord to say that no notice is required for these regulations?

*LORD BALCARRES: The hon. Member must be aware that in the case to which I have referred judgment was given in favour of the course which the Office of Works has always pursued.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Does the noble Lord actually rely on the judgment of the Court for his interpretation of the Act of Parliament?

*LORD BALCARRES: Not at all. The judgment was in favour of the course which the Office of Works has pursued since 1872. There is a distinction between rules and regulations, and the Lord Chief Justice upheld the practice of the Office of Works.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Do I understand rules must be laid but not regulations, or *vice versa*?

*LORD BALCARRES: The matter is perfectly clear. Rules made under the Act have to be laid. Regulations may be made under the rules, and that is what we have done in this case, and indeed in all other cases during the last thirty years.

The Exclusion of Private Carriages from Hyde Park.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether, in view of the fact that by Section 11 of the Parks Regulation Act, 1872, no interference with rights of way is allowed in any of the Royal parks, he will say under what Act or regulation private carriages are now being excluded by the authority of the Commissioner of Works without intimation or notice being given to Parliament.

*LORD BALCARRES: Motor vehicles are being excluded under the Parks

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† See page 257.

Regulation Act, 1872. See Rule I. for Hyde Park in connection with the regulations prescribed by that Act. There are no rights of way over the roads in Hyde Park.

Board of Education—Instructions to Inspectors.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether any instructions to inspectors will be issued with the Education Code for 1905–6.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The Board do not propose to re-issue the "Revised Instructions" applicable to the Code; they are, however, proposing to issue very shortly a volume of suggestions for the consideration of teachers; containing mainly material similar to that in the "Revised Instructions."

Derby Municipal Secondary School.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Board has granted recognition to the municipal secondary school at Derby, accepting the higher education sub-committee of the Derby Education Committee as the board of governors for the school; and, if so, whether the Board now considers that such a scheme of management satisfies Article 16 of the Secondary School Regulations, 1905.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: In the case referred to the Board were satisfied that the arrangement proposed made adequate provision for the government of the school. It is not considered desirable at the present time to lay down any general rule on the subject; each case will be considered on its merits, having regard to the relations which the sub-committee will have with the local education authority on the one hand and the school staff on the other.

Belfast Weekly Tenancies—Magisterial Decision.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to a decision given by Mr. Garret Nagle, resident magistrate in the Belfast Custody Court, on 7th June, 1905, in the case of J. H. Burke Murphy, plaintiff, and Robert Turner, defendant, in regard to weekly tenancies in Belfast; and whether, seeing that the decision has upset the practice that has prevailed in that city for many years, and is the cause of inconvenience both to landlords and tenants, he will say what action he proposes to take in the matter.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I cannot admit that this decision of Mr. Nagle has upset a prevailing practice, inasmuch as the same question was decided in the same way by Mr. Hodder, the senior resident magistrate in Belfast, some time ago, and is in effect, Mr. Nagle contends, governed by the judgment delivered in the Queen's Bench Division thirteen years ago, in the case of Harvey *v.* Copeland. The soundness of Mr. Nagle's decision can be tested by a case stated. I see no reason to introduce any legislation on the subject.

Edgeworthstown Loan Fund Society.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, with a view to affording relief to debenture-holders in the Edgeworthstown Loan Fund Society who lost their lives' savings owing to the fraudulent conduct of the clerk, he intends passing a Loans Fund Bill this year.

MR. ATKINSON; I am most anxious that this Bill should be passed, and cannot understand why it should be opposed. I have every hope that it will be passed, and would ask the hon. Member to endeavour to help the Government to that end.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Irish Party considered this Bill most carefully last year and this year and formulated certain Amendments which in their opinion were necessary; is not the delay in passing due to the fact that the Government will not grant time for its discussion, and are we expected to allow it to pass *sub silentio* ?

MR. ATKINSON replied that some Amendments were submitted but he was unable to approve them. He had since understood that other Amendments in a modified form were to be submitted.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Since we submitted our Amendments no communication whatever has been received from the Government.

MR. ATKINSON said that was not his fault.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he submitted the Amendments on behalf of the Irish Party to the present Chief Secretary, and got in reply a very curt refusal to accept them.

MR. ATKINSON: The original Amendments were unacceptable and we expected further Amendments would be submitted.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: But no further communication passed with us at all.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I take it the hon. Gentleman refers to a communication made to me shortly after I accepted my present offiee.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Yes.

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not think it is correct to say I curtly refused the Amendments. What I did was to suggest that they went somewhat beyond the scope of the Bill.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: There have been no further communications between the Government and myself.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Bill as now drafted does not cover the case I have called attention to in the Question at all—a case in which people lost everything through the default of the Board in Dublin in absolutely winking at the falsification of returns.

MR. ATKINSON: That point is not raised by the Question.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I have over and over again put the case before the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. ATKINSON: If the hon. Member wishes to make the Exchequer pay debts for people who will not or cannot pay themselves I refuse to support him.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I wish to get the right hon. Gentleman to admit the responsibility of the Government in this case, as I believe it to exist.

Granard (County Longford) Estate Bog.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, in view of the provisions of Section 21 of the Land Purchase Act, 1903, regarding the powers of the Estates Commissioners to make regulations for the management and subdivision of bog in the case of estates which had been previously sold under other Purchase Acts, and on which a large area of bog existed, he will advise an inquiry into the management of the Granard (county Longford) Estate bog with a view to having agreements entered into by the vendors at time of sale, guaranteeing certain turbary rights to tenants, given effect to.

MR. ATKINSON: I am not acquainted with the facts of the case, and have no power whatever to direct such an inquiry as is suggested. If the estate should come for sale before the Estates Commissioners, I have no doubt they will exercise the jurisdiction conferred upon them by the 21st Section if the circumstances require it.

Boat Slip at Roads, County Kerry.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Congested Districts Board will increase the height of the wall on the slip at Roads, county Kerry, in order to make it available for the fishermen in stormy weather.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Board at their last meeting decided that this wall should be raised, and the work will shortly be commenced.

Boat Slip at Glen, County Kerry.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the next meeting of the Congested

Districts Board will be held within the next fortnight, he will secure that an inspection of the boat slip at Glen, county Kerry, will be made immediately, as the question of carrying out of additional works on the slip is to be considered at that meeting.

MR. WALTER LONG: It is hoped that it may be possible to have an inspection made early in the present month.

Cooscroum Improvements.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board, at its next meeting, will consider the question of carrying out improvements at Cooscroum, to which their attention has been repeatedly directed.

MR. WALTER LONG: This project came before the Board in April, when they postponed its consideration owing to the state of their funds.

Bog Plots in County Cavan.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has yet ascertained that two acres of land are now about to be taken from Patrick Patterson Raffney, Virginia, county Cavan, by his landlord, which composes the area on which his rent was fixed, and which have always been in his possession, to be given as bog plots to other tenants to enhance the price of the pending land sale; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any steps in the matter.

MR. WALTER LONG. The estate has not yet been inspected, and until an inspection has been made the Commissioners are unable to say whether the facts are as alleged.

Gun Licences in County Kerry—Mr. Thomas Keary's Application.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Thomas Keary, D.C., of Kileland, county Galway, has purchased his holding under the Act of 1903; and, if so, what is the extent of the holding; whether Mr. Keary has applied to Mr. White, R.M., for a licence for a gun to protect his crops; and, if so, has it been granted; if not, can he state the reason of its refusal.

MR. WALTER LONG: Proceedings for the purchase by Mr. Keary of his holding, comprising sixty-three acres, are pending before the Estates Commissioners. The resident magistrate has, in the exercise of the discretion vested in him, refused to grant to Mr. Keary a licence to carry a gun. I am not prepared to answer the last inquiry. The matter is not one which calls for my interference.

Leslie Estate, County Cavan.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Robert Harvey, an inspector from the Estates Commissioners, has threatened to raise prices, previously arranged by all the parties interested, in the case of sixteen tenants on the Leslie Estate, county Cavan; and whether, having regard to the fact that the terms of sale were sanctioned by Judge Ross and are within the zones, he will state what authority the inspector had to do this; and whether the Estates Commissioners have received a communication from the tenants' solicitor objecting on their behalf to the inspector's proposals.

MR. WALTER LONG: This is the case of a proposed sale to the Land Commission, under Section 7, of property in the Land Judge's Court. Under Subsection 2 of that section, the Land Commission have had the estate inspected, and will in due course consider the inspector's report with the view of deciding the terms of the offer which they will make to the Land Judge. It will then be for the Land Judge to decide on the sufficiency of the offer. It is a mistake to assume, as the Question suggests, that inspectors have the power to raise or lower prices. Their duty is to report to the Commissioners.

Public Record Office, Dublin—Bookbinders' Wages.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the employment of a searcher in the Public Record Office, Dublin, to do bookbinders' work at a wage of 27*s.* per. week, while the standard rate of pay for competent bookbinders in the city is 32*s.*, he will take such steps as will secure compliance with the Fair Wages Resolution of this House in the Public Record Office, Dublin.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): I do not consider that the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution are applicable to the circumstances of the case referred to by the hon. Member.

Virginia (Cavan) Postal Deliveries.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that in the four townlands in the Virginia, county Cavan, postal district, viz., Crohan, Lurganboy, Carrack, and part of Eighter, letters are delivered only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to their great inconvenience; and whether, seeing that all the other townlands in the parish have daily deliveries, he will see the desirability of treating the inhabitants of the townlands herein mentioned in the same way.

THE POSTMASTER - GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I have already considered the question of affording a more frequent delivery of letters in the townlands mentioned by the hon. Member, but I regret that, owing to the comparatively high cost of the existing service, the additional expenditure in providing a delivery every weekday would not be warranted.

Lisnagoon and Drumrade (Cavan) Postal Deliveries.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has ascertained that, for the delivery of letters daily to Lisnagoon and Drumrade districts, which are now served from Maudabawn, county Cavan, the postmen in the neighbouring district would include the delivery of these for 3s. 6d. or 4s. a week additional pay; and, if so, what steps he proposes to take.

LORD STANLEY: The cost of a daily delivery of letters in the Lisnagoon and Drumbrade districts would probably not exceed 3s. 6d. or 4s. a week as stated by the hon. Member; but as the number of letters, postcards, etc., for those districts does not in the aggregate exceed about twelve weekly, I should not be justified in incurring an expense of even 3s. 6d. a week for delivering them.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG: But will the noble Lord bear in mind that it can be done for 3s. 6d. weekly?

LORD STANLEY: Yes, I am aware of that.

Public Accounts Committee's Report.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now say what arrangement he proposes to make in order to carry out the undertaking given on 17th April to give either one of the days allotted to Supply, if the House agrees, or otherwise a Friday or an evening sitting, for the consideration by the House of the Public Accounts Committee's Report, and its decision thereon.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I would suggest to my hon. friend to defer this Question till later in the week.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I will put it down for Thursday.

Motor-Car Inquiry.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he proposes to set up a Royal Commission, Statutory Committee, Departmental Committee, or Parliamentary Committee to inquire into the working of the Motor-Car Act, 1903.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Government has determined upon an inquiry into this matter. The exact form of the inquiry has not yet been settled, but in a few days either I or my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board will be in a position to give fuller information.

Home Defence.

MR. SEELY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state the numbers of cavalry, infantry, and guns included in the force of 70,000 men for which he estimated that 250,000 tons of shipping would be required for transport across the Channel.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not estimate 250,000 tons as the amount of shipping that would be required for a force of 70,000 men. I said that was the Admiralty's estimate, but my arguments were based on a much smaller amount. I only mention that in order that the hon. Member may not fall into any mistake. The number of guns allowed was twenty-five six-gun batteries, and the number of horses about 14,000.

Scottish Churches Bill.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, under reference to Clause 1, Sub-section 2, of the Churches (Scotland) Bill, whether it is the meaning and intention of the Government that the term adherent occurring in that sub-section shall only apply to the families of *bona fide* communicants, and to those persons who prior to the union were by themselves or their parents *bona fide* and permanently connected with the Free Church as adherents; and, if so, whether he is willing that words be introduced to make this clear.

The hon. Member also had the following Questions on the Paper:—

MR. BLACK: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, under reference to Clause 1, Sub-section 3, of the Churches (Scotland) Bill, whether it is the meaning and intention of the Government that the direction to the Executive Commission as to appropriating funds for the support of ministers of the legal Free Church and for the general purposes of that Church should apply only to funds originally contributed for the support of ministers or for general purposes, or whether it is the meaning and intention of the Government that funds given by the original contributors for other specific purposes such as the christianising of the natives of India or Africa should be permanently taken away from these beneficiaries and distributed amongst ministers of the legal Free Church working in Scotland.

MR. BLACK: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, under reference to Clause 4, Sub-section 1, of the Churches (Scotland) Bill, whether it is designed that the definition of property in question contained in that sub-section should be extended so as to include about £300,000 of bequests to the Free Church by persons dying since the date of the union not adhering to the legal Free church; and whether any clause will be added to the Bill making provision for dealing with such questions arising after the Executive Commission is dissolved.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Member had better defer until to-morrow the Questions dealing with these very important matters. I have been considering the question of public business in connection with this Bill, and I have come to the conclusion, somewhat reluctantly, that we must interrupt for a day our proceedings upon the Aliens Bill in order to take the Second Reading of this Bill, so that we may be able to go on with it on the first available opportunity. I therefore give notice that I shall take this Bill first to-morrow, and my learned friend the Lord-Advocate will open the debate and deal with all the points raised by the Questions.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: When will the Aliens Bill be resumed?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said I should interrupt the proceedings for a day.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: One day.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: A day is one day.

MR. BLACK asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the General Assembly of the United Free Church would meet on Wednesday next, and whether he had considered the propriety of the discussion in that House preceding the discussion of the General Assembly.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think all those who are specially interested in the Commission would have raised no objection to the proceeding that I suggest. On the contrary, I think it would be extremely convenient that my learned friend should have an opportunity of stating the general policy of the Government on this question so that the Churches specially interested may be able to consider the subject between the Second Reading and the Committee stage of the Bill.

The Education Code.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether any opportunity will be given for a discussion of the Education Code for 1905–6 before it becomes operative on August 1st.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not at present in a position to fix a day.

Government Redistribution Proposals.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is his intention to bring forward the question of electoral redistribution during this session; and, if so, seeing that the opportunities of adequate discussion are rapidly dwindling, whether he will now communicate his intention to the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, as I think I have more than once signified to the House, the Government do intend to proceed with the Resolution.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: In view of the advanced period of the session, will the right hon. Gentleman at once place the terms of the Resolution on the Paper in order that the House may have plenty of time to consider it?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I will endeavour to give adequate time for considering the terms of the Government's Resolution, but I cannot promise to place them at once upon the Table of the House.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: If they are not placed on the Table at once the time will not be ample.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think that when the right hon. Gentleman comes to consider them he will not deny that there is adequate time to deal with the question. I do not know how long he desires to consider this Resolution. It is of an extremely simple character.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I appeal to the right hon. Gentleman, in a matter of this tremendous importance, in regard to which we have no idea of the general scope and extent of the proposals of the Government, whether it would not be right and only due to the House that they should have, certainly with no more delay than a few days from this, the terms which it is intended to ask them to agree to.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think the Question, in the terms in which the right hon. Gentleman has now put it, is at all unreasonable. In a few days I hope to be able to put the resolution before the House.

Under-Sheriffs (Ireland) Bill.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government will give facilities for passing into law this session the Under-Sheriffs (Ireland) Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: This Bill can be no exception to the general rule which, much to my regret, I have to apply to private Members' Bills.

The Aliens Bill.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the resolutions relating to the Aliens Bill passed on the 28th June at a meeting of citizens held in the Midland Hotel, Manchester, presided over by the Conservative candidate for North-West Manchester and supported by many gentlemen of both political Parties; whether he is aware that these resolutions urged upon His Majesty's Government the need to amend the Bill (1) to secure the same express exemption to victims of religious persecution as is accorded to victims of political persecution; (2) to give the right of appeal to the ordinary Courts of law to persons refused permission to land, or who, having been allowed to land, are threatened with expulsion from the country, or to shipping companies to be burdened with the expenses of their maintenance and reshipment; (3) to prevent an expulsion order being made on grounds so trivial as "living under insanitary conditions due to overcrowding"; and (4) to relieve the shipping companies of the cost of maintaining and returning aliens who, having been permitted to land, are subsequently expelled for reasons over which the shipping companies have no control; whether, having regard to the fact that these resolutions were passed at a non-Party meeting not opposed to the general principle of excluding undesirable aliens by law, His Majesty's Government will endeavour to introduce the desired modifications into the Bill during its passage through the Committee stage.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think the Question comes within the rule relating to Questions which can be asked after five minutes to three o'clock, which must be urgent and relate to the business of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: Some of the matters touched upon will be discussed this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: If that is so it will be open to the hon. Member to put the Questions then.

MR. CHURCHILL: My reason for putting them now is that it will probably be the only time when the Prime Minister will be accessible.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN asked as to the arrangements for business, and especially as to the Unemployed and Workmen's Compensation Bills.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is clear that we can take neither the Workmen's Compensation Bill nor the Unemployed Bill until we have disposed of the Committee stage of the Aliens Bill, and until we have made much further progress with the Scotch Bill I can enter into no pledge with regard to either of these Bills except the negative statement which I have just made. I think it is too early to ask about Monday. I do not know precisely what progress the House will be able to make with the Aliens Bill.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): Are we to understand that the Unemployed Bill is absolutely dead? We might have an Answer; we shall be out of our misery sooner.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think the hon. Gentleman should be in too great haste to deliver a funeral oration. No doubt the time of Parliament is running short, but the amount of business that can be done in the time that remains depends mainly, indeed, almost entirely, upon the good will of Members on both sides of the House, and I am not in a position to measure the degree of that good will at present.

THE ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL complained that the Answers to twenty-five Questions put down last Thursday by Irish Members, but not actually asked through the absence of the hon. Members, had not been circulated with the Votes. He asked what the rule of the House was in that matter.

MR. SPEAKER said that if, owing to the efflux of time, a Question which appeared on the Paper was not asked, it was the business of the Minister to whom it was addressed to hand the reply he would have given in to the proper quarter, when it would appear, in due course, in the Votes circulated to Members.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: What remedy have we if that is not done?

MR. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot say what the remedy is. The rule is clear and it certainly should be followed.

MR. JOHN REDMOND asked whether the rule applied to Questions not answered for any reason—whether the efflux of time, the absence of the Minister, or the absence of the hon. Member in whose name the Question stood.

MR. SPEAKER replied that he could not say, on the spur of the moment, whether the rule applied in all those cases, but obviously that would be the better course to follow, because an hon. Member might be absent through no fault of his own. It would be for the general convenience of the House if the rule were made generally applicable.

Sir HENRY FOWLER pointed out that the rule clearly laid it down that in the case of any Question distinguished by an asterisk which had not been answered by five minutes to three, the Minister should cause the Answer to be printed and circulated with the Votes.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR thought there was no doubt whatever that the meaning of the rule was as had been indicated by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, and that, if the Question was not asked for any reason, it should be answered by a printed reply in the Votes. He believed that so far as last Thursday was concerned the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary scrupulously followed the rule, as all the Nationalist Members who had Questions down were absent. He much regretted it was not done by some other Minister. He did not think he himself was guilty.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Oh, yes, your Answers were not circulated.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that is the case.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Oh, yes, a Question about motoring on Sundays.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Member is mistaken.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Oh, no.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Then if it be the case I greatly regret it, and I will take care that the lapse shall be remedied.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that in the case of every Question that had been addressed to him and had not been asked across the floor of the House, for whatever reason except that of postponement by an hon. Member, the Answer had been handed in at the Table for circulation with the Votes, and, so far as he knew, there had never been a single case of omission.

NEW MEMBER.

New Member made the Affirmation required by Law—Joseph Allen Baker, esquire, for the Parliamentary Borough of Finsbury (East Division).

MR. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

ALIENS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

The **Chairman** moved the first four Amendments on the Paper out of order and called upon the hon. Member for the West Derby Division of Liverpool to move an Amendment to line 20.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said it was merely a drafting Amendment.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) on a point of order, said he had an earlier Amendment to propose.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Liverpool is in possession. If he chooses he can give way.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said it was not a question of giving way. He rose immediately he was in a position to know that his Amendment came first, and he had a right, therefore, to be heard.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the hon. Member for Liverpool is not claiming to proceed.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES then moved to insert, after the word "are," the word "not," in that part of Sub-section (2) which says that the immigration board "shall, if they are satisfied that the immigrant is not an undesirable person"; the consequential Amendment being to omit the word "not" before the words "an undesirable person." He said that one of the defects of the Bill was that it threw the onus of proof on the wrong person—on the immigrant instead of on the authority who wished to exclude him. The immigrant under the clause as it stood would have to prove that he was not an undesirable alien, whereas the immigration officer ought to be required to prove that he was an undesirable alien. If this provision had existed in the past this country would have lost the services of the Walloons, who gave us the woollen industry; of the French, who gave us the silk industry; and of such men as Brunel, Labouchere, and Disraeli. The Bill was a reversal of the traditional policy of this country, and he submitted that such a reversal should be carried out by the ordinary rules. If a penalty was sought to be imposed on a man it was the duty of the person seeking to impose it to prove the man was in the wrong. It was a rule of logic, if not of law, that it was not possible to prove a negative, yet they were proposing to call on these aliens to prove all kinds of negatives. A very serious disability was sought to be imposed by this Bill, and surely those seeking to impose it ought to be called upon to prove that the person on whom it was to be imposed came within one of the prohibited categories of immigrants.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'are,' to insert the word 'not.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'not' be there inserted."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) was sorry he could not agree with his hon. friend either in his law or logic. He had told them it was not possible to prove a negative, but his hon. friend forgot it was a daily occurrence to do that in connection with the covenant of leases. The case contemplated by the sub-section was that of an appeal from the immigration officer who had decided against an immigrant to the board. Did the hon. Gentleman contend that it was for the respondent in an appeal to prove that the judgment of the Court below was right? The hon. Member would throw on those who were in possession of judgment the burden of proving the soundness of the judgment, instead of leaving it to the party that appealed to prove the judgment wrong. The hon. Member seemed to think that every alien had a right to land in this country. No such right existed. It rested with every country to say whom it would receive.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) pointed out that cases were often appealed by way of rehearing, and then the onus was thrown on the person who first initiated proceedings. It certainly did seem to him that the proposal of the Bill was in conflict with the general principles of our criminal procedure. This Bill cast the responsibility upon the immigrant, who had no means of proving his innocence. Surely his accusers ought to establish the case against him. He hoped the right hon. and learned Gentleman would brush aside these legal subtleties and concede what had been asked for.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) thought his right hon. and learned friend would acknowledge that, whatever the principles of law were, the constitutional practice of this country had been to admit aliens unsuspected of any criminal offence. Surely if they were now going to depart from that practice the onus of proof should be cast not upon the immigrant but upon the immigration board. For these reasons he should vote for the Amendment.

MR. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Owestry) said that according to their constitutional custom it had always been held in this country that a man was innocent until he was proved guilty. This Bill was proposing a reversal of that practice, for they were laying down that a man was guilty until he had proved himself innocent. He should support the Amendment.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham) said he regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not been able to accept the Amendment, which was a reasonable and moderate one put forward in no factious spirit. He did not think the Attorney-General's great legal knowledge had impressed the House very much. It might be perfectly true that in appealing from one Court to another the burden of proof would rest upon the appellant, but in this case the appeal was from an executive official to a Court, and when the appeal went to the Immigration Board that was the very first time the alien came in touch with the methods of procedure which were usually adopted in a Court of justice. When a sanitary inspector made a charge under the Public Health Act he had to prove that charge.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: He is making the charge.

Mr. CHURCHILL said they were charging under this Bill an alien with being an idiot or a lunatic, or being an undesirable from being diseased, in fact, they were charging an alien with a whole page of offences any one of which would afford ground for an action at law. If they insisted upon aliens coming before the immigration board surely they ought to have a fair chance, and the same chance which was not denied to all persons in other Courts. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision.

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said there was no wish on the Opposition side of the House in any way to unduly take up the time of the Committee [Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh!"] He assured hon. Members opposite that the point under consideration was one of the utmost importance, and he was sure the Attorney-General would not contradict him when he said it was a matter of universal experience that in the early clauses of a Bill it very often happened that very important points came up which had to be discussed at far greater length than the later stages of the Bill. By rejecting Amendments upon this subject the right hon. Gentleman was not advancing the object he had in view—namely, that of passing this Bill as quickly as possible. It was a general proposition in law that he who asserted must prove. He agreed that it occasionally happened that the burden of proof was shifted, but they were not now concerned with the exceptions but with the general proposition, and he contended that the burden of proof should be upon the officer and not upon the unfortunate alien. If the Home Secretary could hold out some hope of modifying this objectionable section it would tell considerably upon the whole discussion. They were not now simply proposing to exclude undesirable aliens in the ordinary sense, but this Bill proposed to exclude a man merely upon grounds of poverty. That was the main objection they had to this Bill. If an alien could not show that he had a substantial balance at his bankers he was liable to be put back on board ship and in some cases would not be allowed to land at all. He should have thought that this consideration alone would have led the Government to have received this Amendment in a friendly spirit. If the Government rejected every suggestion of this kind, they must not be astonished if Members sitting on this side offered a strenuous opposition.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 161; Noes, 210. (Division List No. 225.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Buxton, NE(York,NR,Whitby
Buxton, Sydney Chas.(Poplar)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robt. Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway)
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A.(Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.

Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt EC (SAndrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Grant, Corrie,
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F.(Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj.J.E.B.(Isleof Wight
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.Hn.C R(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F.W. (York, W.R.)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur Walters(NDorset
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, Sir JT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Gibson Bowles and Mr Cohen.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn. H. O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.SirH.
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn. A.J(Manch'r.)
Balfour, Capt C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds)
Balfour, KennethR(Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Campbell, Rt. Hn. JA(Glasgow
Campbell,J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Chas. William
Chamberlain, Rt HnJ.A.Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Rt. Hn Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt.HnSir J.(Man'r.
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, SirR B (Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gordon, Hn.J E(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'ry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George

Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords.NW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar(Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H L. W.(Mile End
Lee, Arthur H(Hants. Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Bristol, S
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconoche, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis(Edinburgh, W
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E. Wigt'n
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N
Mitchell, Wm. (Burnley)
Morgan, D. J. Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Chares Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, Wm. Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Rt Hn J Parker(Lanarks
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord(Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H(Sheffield
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E(Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H.(Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that his object in moving the Amendment standing in his name was that the immigrants should know the facts so that they might appeal to the immigration board, because it was upon the latter to finally decide whether the immigrants were to be allowed to land. Of course, it was obviously necessary that the immigrants, poor, uneducated persons, who were not allowed to land, should know the grounds for that decision of the immigration officer, and the procedure they should take to appeal against that decision. It probably would be said that that was a matter that could be dealt with by rules to be authorised under this Bill. He had the strongest objections to what he could not help regarding as a very slovenly method of procedure. A very eminent draftsman told him the other day that he attributed in no small degree the failure of certain Acts to the fact that important matters were left to rules, made by Departments, for which the draftsmen was not responsible. Why should matters of capital importance be left to the Home Secretary's discretion, and to what rules regarding them he might sanction? That was a derogation of the powers of the House. He could not find any precedent for a matter of this kind being left to rules to be made by a Department. He had always found the principle embodied in the Act itself. He was sure that the Home Secretary would assent to the principle of his Amendment. He could not think that the right hon. Gentleman would have any objection to allowing it to be put into the Bill rather than relegating it to his Department over which the House had no control. Again, there was no provision in the Bill that the rules should be laid on the Table of the House. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, at the end, to insert the words—'(3) It shall be the duty of the immigration officer, when he has withheld leave to land as aforesaid, to notify to the master of the ship and to any immigrant to whom he has so withheld leave the ground or grounds upon which he has so withheld leave and that such master or immigrant may appeal therefrom to the immigration authority of the port.'"—(*Mr. Atherley-Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said he had no objection in principle to the proposal of the hon. and learned Gentleman. There was no doubt that instructions would be given to the immigration officer to tell the immigrant and the master of the ship the ground or grounds of the rejection of the former, and that they might appeal. But that was purely a matter of procedure, and could be better dealt with by rules and general instructions to the immigration officer than by statute. It was hardly worth while to encumber the Bill with a sub-section when what was desired could be accomplished by instructions or rules. He could not accept the words here, but words to the same effect might be added on the second clause.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he was glad to hear the Home Secretary adopt such a conciliatory spirit. As the right hon. Gentleman seemed to invite the expression of the wishes of the House on the subject, he should like to say that there ought to be, on the face of the Bill, some direction of the kind suggested in the Amendment. It would be much more prudent to put a direction in the Bill which anyone could understand that anyone empowered to exclude an alien should assign the reason for which his exclusion was ordered, not only with a view to give information to the immigrant and the master of the ship, but because the Bill was going to be the declaration of the policy of the Government. It would be satisfactory to have, on the face of the Act itself, a declaration, to be read in the sight of all men, that it was the right of the immigrant and the master of the ship to know the ground on which the former was refused leave to land. He quite appreciated what the Home Secretary said, that it might be possible to effect the purpose by fewer words and in another place; only let it be understood that in some way or other it would be on the face of the Act.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman opposite that it would be a convenient and a right thing that there should be in the Bill an indication of the grounds of exclusion of the immigrant. The right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary had stated that in Clause 2 words would be introduced which would provide that the immigration officer should specify the ground or grounds on which the immigrant was rejected. That would, he thought, meet every purpose. The extremely unsatisfactory condition of the Statute-book was often due to the fact that they went into too great details in their Acts of Parliament.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) congratulated the Home Secretary on the conciliatory disposition the right hon. Gentleman had manifested in his desire to accelerate the passage of the Bill. He wished to know if the document to be delivered by the immigration officer to the immigrant, giving his reasons for exclusion, would also contain a statement that the immigrant had a right of appeal to the immigration board? They ought to remember that these transactions were being carried on with people who were ignorant of our language and our forms of procedure, and who laboured under every disadvantage.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the statute could not be cumbered with all these details. It was quite enough to state the grounds of exclusion.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that under these circumstances he would withdraw his Amendment, reserving his right of criticism of the Home Secretary's Amendment when introduced.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) asked if the right hon. Gentleman was going to exclude any reference to the master of the ship? He appealed to the Home Secretary that, in bringing in his Amendment to Clause 2, he should let the master of the ship know in writing the grounds for excluding the immigrants.

Mr. CHURCHILL asked if the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary, would insert words in his Amendment which would embody the substantial meaning of the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY was understood to say that there was no necessity for encumbering the statute with all these details.

Mr. LOUGH said that the Home Secretary's concession did undoubtedly cover the essence of the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for North-West Durham: which was that the document to be handed to the immigrant should contain two things—a statement of the reasons why he was not to be allowed to land, and, secondly, that he had a right of appeal. Now the Attorney-General appeared to be inclined to withdraw that concession.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he would never dream of withdrawing any concession made by his right hon. friend the Home Secretary.

Mr. CHURCHILL asked if the right hon. Gentleman would tell the Committee clearly what was to be inserted in the document? Were the substance of the reasons for exclusion and the knowledge of the right of appeal to be made clearly known to the immigrant?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said that he might point out that every concession he had made—and he had made three or four—had always led to a further expansion of demands and to a lengthened debate.

Mr. CHURCHILL asked if the right hon. Gentleman would undertake to insert words to provide that the alien should know the ground on which he was refused admission, and also that he had the right of appeal.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I said notification and nothing else.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said the Bill was before the Committee to be discussed, and it was the duty of Ministers to take advantage of the suggestions of hon. Members for the improvement of the Bill. They did not accept any concession of the right hon. Gentleman as a favour. The Amendment asked for two things which ought to be granted. An immigrant who might not know the English language might be objected to by the immigration officer. By the way, they did not know what the qualifications of that gentleman were to be; yet he was to sit in judgment on thousands of people. An immigrant might be rejected without any adequate cause, and he should be informed what the reasons for rejection were and that he had the right of appeal. What was the objection? Was he to be smuggled back without any knowledge that he had the right to appeal? That was unfair to the immigrant, unfair to the shipowner and the master of the ship, and unfair to the House of Commons. The Amendment was a very modest one and ought to be accepted without a moment's delay. Did the Government seriously contend that their object was to keep the information suggested from the immigrant? He did not suppose that the right hon. Gentleman would be a party to any such unjust proceeding. The right hon. Gentleman had inserted the right of appeal in the Bill, and why should not the immigrant be informed he had such a right? It could not interfere with the object of the Bill, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to provide some machinery whereby an immigrant who was rejected should be informed he had the right to appeal.

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES asked if the Home Secretary had not stated that the immigrant should be informed of the grounds on which he was rejected, and also that he had the right to appeal.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the immigrant would be informed of the grounds on which he was refused admission; but it was his own strong impression that as regarded the appeal it would be better to have notices in different parts of the ship, in language which the immigrant could understand. He must respectfully protest when the Government made a concession against all sorts of details, which could be better discussed later, being dragged in.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) asked if the grounds on which an immigrant were rejected were to be given to him in English, which he might not understand.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that every effort would be made to have the reasons properly interpreted to the immigrant.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES asked if the Attorney-General knew of any substantial objection to informing the immigrant that he had the right to appeal.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he would certainly consider the matter. His impression was that the right of appeal should be stated to exist by some form of notice throughout the ship.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said that the Home Secretary gave his hon. friend to understand that he agreed to the principle of the Amendment and merely suggested that it should be moved on Clause 2. Now the Attorney-General stated he did not agree that an immigrant should be told that he had the right to appeal. There was a direct conflict of opinion between the two right hon. Gentlemen.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he must beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon. He was distinctly confirmed by what the Attorney-General had said. He accepted the principle and said it would be considered when it was brought up again. They were very anxious to meet hon. Gentlemen opposite, but they would not be impelled to make further concessions if this were the spirit in which they were to be received.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said the Amendment he desired to move was a corollary to that which had just been discussed. They did not as yet know the composition of the board to be set up, and it was conceivable that a decision might be given which was unfair and unjust to the immigrant and to the master of the ship. It was because he wished to give the shipowners some sort of appeal that he moved his Amendment. If they knew exactly what the constitution of the board was to be, perhaps the Amendment might not be necessary. It was very difficult to make the Bill a good Bill, but he and his hon. friends were endeavouring to do what they could in that direction, although the process was not easy. It might be said that the Amendment, if adopted, would entail too great delay. There might be something in that; but some sort of appeal should be provided, and no better tribunal could be proposed than a Divisional Court. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, at the end, to insert the words 'and where leave to land is also withheld by the Immigration Board, the master of the ship may appeal to a Divisional Court of the King's Bench Division or, where such Court cannot be formed within seven days of the notice of such appeal to a Judge of the said division, and such Court or Judge shall, if satisfied that the immigrant is not an undesirable immigrant within the meaning of this section, give leave to land, and leave so given shall operate as the leave of the immigration officer.'"—(*Mr. Tennant.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped the Committee would not accept the Amendment for the very reason indicated by the hon. Gentleman himself. If leave to appeal were given in all cases, as the Amendment advocated, it might lead to very great delay. A more serious question would arise as to the liability of the shipowner to maintain the immigrant pending the appeal. If there was to be an appeal there should be a stay of execution; then the immigrant should be kept in the country. But who was to maintain him? Was it the shipowner? Or was the general taxpayer to find board and lodging for every immigrant who chose to exercise the right this Amendment would confer? He respectfully submitted that the Amendment was an impossible one, and would seriously hamper the working of the Act. The very essence of the matter was despatch. Under all these circumstances he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) said he quite appreciated the objections that the Attorney-General had taken, but, on the other hand, Parliament would be giving under this Bill a power to the immigration boards unknown to English law. He therefore thought there should be some appeal.

MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) said his only objection was that the Amendment did not go far enough. He could not see, if there was an appeal to the Court of King's Bench, why they should not go higher, to the Court of Appeal and to the House of Lords.

MR. DALZIEL expressed the opinion that the arguments of the right hon. and learned Attorney-General were directed to a matter which was not germane to the Amendment. The Amendment asked that the master of the ship should have a right to appeal, and if he liked to provide food and lodging for the immigrant while the appeal was pending that was a matter which concerned himself alone. The point of the Amendment was that there might be an immigration officer who did not understand the language of the immigrants, and that if he told a certain number to stand aside they ought to have a right to appeal. There was no guarantee of the capacity of the immigration board, and therefore there should be an appeal. He suggested that an appeal to the local police Court would answer every point made by the right hon. and learned Gentleman, and he put it to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill whether the Amendment was not a reasonable one.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln) said he quite agreed with the Attorney-General that there were objections to this Amendment, but he thought it would be convenient if the hon. and learned Gentleman told the Committee how he proposed to arrange the matter unless there was going to be a system of appeal. Under this Bill they were going to set up immigration boards all over the country, which would have to deal with difficult and complicated questions as to the character of the immigrants and the general principles upon which they were to be received and registered. He submitted that there must be some appeal—some regulations by which the decision of these boards must be supervised, controlled, and assimilated one with another. If the Attorney-General objected to this proposal perhaps he would explain how an immigrant or a master of a ship who considered the decision of the Immigration Board was not just, could get it supervised.

MR. RUNCIMAN said there was no reason why the judgment of the local Recorder should not be regarded as a sufficient Court of Appeal. The Attorney-General did not seem to appreciate the fact that immense numbers of men were brought, say, to the Port of Hull, and that there must arise doubtful cases in which it was difficult to say whether a man was a lunatic or an idiot, whether he had sufficient means of subsistence, or whether he was a person who could be properly dealt with under the extradition laws. Suppose a rule were laid down by the immigration board it might be followed for all time, and prove absolutely ruinous to the trade of the port. If that should be the case, was it fair that the trade of the whole district should be jeopardised by the rule of the immigration board, merely because the right of appeal was refused. He suggested that there was one great safeguard against frivolous appeals, which was that the master of a ship would not bring up any case unnecessarily, because the costs of the appeal would in most cases amount to more than the £100 fine under the Bill. It would therefore be only very serious cases which would be taken up. The Government ought to consider these possibilities, because the judgment of the three business men, administrative gentlemen or magistrates, whichever they might be, might be so serious that not only the master of the ship but the immigrant himself ought to have the right of appeal.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) thought there ought to be something in the nature of an appeal if the immigration board was to be the official authority set up to decide these matters, because the board might be efficient or inefficient. But whether it was efficient or not, it was not a judicial body, and therefore there ought to be some appeal from its decisions. He asked the Government to consider this point, and, before the Bill passed through Committee, to see that some power of appeal was incorporated in it. He trusted the Government would take notice of the general feeling on both sides of the House and give a promise to that effect. As the matter at present stood he should vote for the Amendment.

Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) pointed out that there might be great laxity at one port and great stringency at another, and that in such an event the immigration traffic would be turned to the port at which the laxity existed. He thought, therefore, some Court of Appeal was necessary.

Mr. CHURCHILL desired to add one word, which was that they were not seeking to safeguard the rights of immigrants, because they knew in some quarters, at least, they were regarded as sewage. This was an appeal not on behalf of the immigrants, but on behalf of the shipping companies, and the shipping companies, if they chose, could exercise it at their own expense. By rejecting this Amendment the Government were simply refusing to their own countrymen the right of appeal to the Courts of justice of this country as to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Mr. LOUGH submitted that as the Home Secretary had power under Subsection 4 to exempt certain ships from the operation of the clause other ships might have some reason to complain of the way in which they were treated, and there ought to be some right of appeal. He agreed that the exact wording of the Amendment was not the best possible, but he thought the Committee were practically unanimous in the view that something in the way of an appeal ought to be provided for hard cases. The question of expense would have to be dealt with. In America a right of appeal was given to both shipping companies and immigrants. In the interests of the immigrant boards themselves a right of appeal should be given. It would be treating the boards with absolute contempt if some authority were not placed over them to guide them when they made mistakes, and they would become objects of contempt and go out of use because of their inherent weakness and rottenness.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) said there appeared to be a consensus of opinion in the Committee that the Amendment would not work. Even its strongest supporters admitted that it would not be of any use in the Bill. But the strangest argument that had been put forward was that of the hon. Member for West Islington, who said that it would be an insult to these boards if some authority were not placed over their heads to guide them in the right way.

Mr. LOUGH: I said it would be a weakness, not an insult.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR thought it was the strangest form of insult of which he had ever heard.

Mr. LOUGH: What I said was that these boards, like all other boards in the country, would want guidance, and that there was a danger of their becoming objects of contempt if they were refused it.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he was almost as much at variance with that version of the argument as with the other. Hon. Members had rested almost the whole of their case on the fact that the process would be so costly that it would never be used.

Mr. TENNANT said that it would be only occasionally used.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said it was the first time he had ever heard it suggested that the costliness of the law was an advantage. Hon. Members now said that the process would be so expensive—and he was not sure they were not correct—that the right of appeal would be largely illusory, because only the rich would be able to avail themselves of it, and they would use it only on special occasions. He did not think that that was a good argument in favour of the Amendment. He thought hon. Members opposite regarded the Bill too much as a Bill for dealing with legal rights rather than as one dealing in a very expeditious manner with a matter of administration. When they were dealing with matters of administration and not with matters of civil rights convenience and rapidity were far more important than that nice uniformity which hon. Members opposite seemed so greatly to favour. They appeared to regard it as a terrible calamity that a slightly different procedure should be adopted in Hull than that which was adopted, say, in the Port of London. He thought it would be unfortunate, but he had two observations to make upon it. The first was that there was a machinery under the Bill by which the Home Office could see that such divergence of practice should not take place, and the second was that by common consent we had submitted to the greatest divergence in the administration of the criminal law as between Judges without any attempt to produce uniformity by a Court of Criminal Appeal. The one argument against the Bill that had been hammered in day after day by hon. Gentlemen opposite was that the Bill was unworkable, and the Amendments they sought to introduce were intended to make it unworkable. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh!"] If hon. Gentlemen opposite regarded that expression of opinion as offensive he would withdraw it and restate the proposition by saying that their Amendments were intended to make the Bill so theoretically perfect a piece of mechanism that in this rough world, where rapidity of procedure was the greatest desideratum, the machinery would not carry out the object for which it was intended. He earnestly pressed on the Committee not unduly to complicate this measure by a system of appeal which was very costly in our ordinary legal system, where it was, unfortunately, necessary, and which would be both cumbrous and costly in this Bill where, in his judgment, it was not necessary.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said that although the Amendment might possibly be improved in form, and be better introduced in another place, yet there was a general feeling that this was a matter in which some right of appeal ought to be provided. He did not agree with the right hon. Gentleman that the questions which would have to be submitted to these immigration boards would be substantially administrative questions. He thought they would be called upon to deal with serious and difficult questions of evidence, and even with questions of law, and the Government had themselves so far acknowledged that that would be the case that, in the course of the debate on the Second Reading, they agreed that one of the members of the board should in all cases be a lawyer, so that there should be at least one person competent to deal with the questions of evidence that must arise. Then the right hon. Gentleman said that the matter was sufficiently safeguarded by the powers of the Home Secretary. Where in the Bill were they to find those powers?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was that uniformity was safeguarded by the Bill.

Mr. ASQUITH: By what provision? [After a pause.] I am waiting for an answer.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: I think my right hon. friend was referring to the provisions in Section 8, Sub-section 4. The right hon. Gentleman opposite will agree with me that the Home Office, if there was any reason to suppose that the immigration boards were going wrong, could send round a circular pointing out that they were taking an erroneous view of the law with regard to these matters, and it would be the duty of the boards to conform to the intimation from the Home Secretary.

Mr. ASQUITH said it was quite true that Section 8, Sub-section 4, did give a right of appeal to the Home Secretary in certain cases, but it was quite clear that the very thing they were discussing was left out, viz., whether the board had come to a right decision as to the desirability of a person.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I never said that the Home Secretary had powers under the Bill to act as a Court of Appeal upon all the questions that might arise. What I said was that the Home Office had power to produce that general uniformity of procedure, the absence of which was regarded by hon. Gentlemen opposite as a serious blot on the Bill.

Mr. ASQUITH said they were getting at it by degrees. Section 8, Sub-section 4, at any rate, was out of the question. The right hon. Gentleman fell back on what he assumed to be some general, undefined, latent constitutional power in the Home Office to keep the tribunals of the country in proper order. He knew of no such power. The circulars sent from the Home Office were merely pieces of advice, and there was no obligation on the part of those receiving them to follow them. He remembered one particular case, viz., the circular as to the expediency of allowing people out on bail. The majority of the Courts of petty session studiously disregarded the circular, and he saw no reason to think that these immigration boards, which would be clothed, unless some right of appeal was given, with plenary and indisputable authority in all these matters, would any more feel bound by a circular from the Home Office. In view of the complexity of the questions that might be submitted to these boards he thought the Government ought to consider the desirability of a right of appeal being given, and he suggested that his hon. friend might withdraw his Amendment if the Government would undertake on Clause 2, which defined the constitution of the immigration board, to consider whether there should not be a right of appeal.

Mr. TENNANT said he did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman was going to accept that suggestion.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife was that the Government should find a plan for doing what, in the opinion of the Government, was very questionable, and which would introduce dangers and difficulties which would make the Bill more complex.

Mr. TENNANT said he was very anxious not to take a division if the result would be that his proposal would be ruled out of order on Clause 2. That would be the effect of taking a division now and he would rather withdraw his Amendment. [Cries of "No, no!"] He disclaimed the innuendo thrown out by the Prime Minister that the object of his Amendment was to devise machinery which would make the working of the Bill so difficult that it would break down. That was not his desire, because he wished to make the Bill as good as it could be made. He asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that in the United States there were more immigrants dealt with by many thousands than were ever likely to have to be dealt with by the immigration officers in this country. When an alien was rejected in the United States he had a right of appeal from the officer to a board, and if he wished for a further appeal he could go to the Superintendent of Immigration, and after that the Secretary of State was able to review the decision. He wished to point out that in the United States all these examinations were private matters, and it was especially provided that in the instances of inquiry into the case of a man suspected of being a convict or of a woman of being a prostitute, they should not be taken in open Court. This was a matter for the country itself to decide, and in the interests of everybody it was done privately and could be reviewed by the Secretary of State. This Bill, if passed into law, would give exactly the same protection in this country. He trusted that this Amendment would be negatived upon its merits and the point got rid of.

Mr. SEELY hoped the Attorney-General would consider how this immigration board could be brought into a similar position to a Court of petty sessions. It seemed to him that there ought to be some arrangement by which, if a board in Hull gave a certain decision and another board in Grimsby gave a totally different decision upon exactly the same facts, the question could be raised, and in a Court of petty sessions that could be done. He understood that these immigration boards would be absolutely independent bodies.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: No, no!

Mr. SEELY said that what the hon. Member for Liverpool had stated might be a very suitable arrangement for the United States, but he was not very keen about introducing American principles into this country. He would like the Attorney-General to tell them whether there was any means of supervising the decisions of these boards. When a man was unjustly treated by one of these boards he should have a right of appeal.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he did not think the hon. Member was correct in saying that there was no check whatever upon the proceedings of these boards, because there was a provision in Clause 8 for securing uniformity. The Prime Minister had said that there seemed to be a general consent that the Amendment was impossible, and he had nothing to add to what the right hon. Gentleman had said. If any satisfactory proposal could be made upon a subsequent clause the Government would, of course, take it into consideration.

*Mr. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough) said they did not know whether the boards suggested under the Bill would be removable or not, and yet they would have great powers, possibly enabling them to seize a vessel under certain circumstances. Supposing one of these boards ordered certain immigrants to be taken back on board and the shipowner refused to take them back again to the country from which they embarked. Would these boards have power to seize that vessel? Were they going to give these boards, which were being set up at the dictates of individuals who represented certain constituencies which were affected, the power to seize British ships. It would be very dangerous to allow such drastic powers to such boards.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said upon this occasion he agreed with the Attorney-General's attitude towards the Amendment, although the reasons he had given for taking this course were not altogether satisfactory. The last subsection of Clause 8 gave absolutely despotic power to the Home Secretary, who might be succeeded by some one less capable than the present Home Secretary, in whom he had the greatest confidence. He thought this was a very dangerous power to put into the hands of a Secretary of State.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 226.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, RtHn.Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Buxton, NE(York,NR,Whitby
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, CaptEC.(SAndrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond

Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, RtHn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt.Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy,Vincent P.(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex.(Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt.Hn. John (Montrose
Muldoon, John
Murphy John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col John P.(Galway. N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John B.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, RtHnC.R(Northants)
Stanhope, Hon. Phi James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters(NDorset
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N.
Woodhouse, SirJT (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Younger, William
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Tennant and Major Seely.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon.SirH
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir FrederickGeorge
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blandell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T.Gibson (King'sLynn
Brassey Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex H. (Shropsh.)
Brymer, William Ernest
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn.JA(Glasgow
Campbell, J.HM.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. Birm.
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir FredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Egerton, Hn. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Rt,Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Man'cr
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, SirRB.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir RobertPenrose
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.

Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J.(Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir JohnEldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford,W
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, JF(Sheffield, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col. W
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W(Mile End)
Lee, Arthur H(Hants,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col Chas. W(Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowesoft
Lucas,Reginald J(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, SirLews(Edinburgh,W
Macolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt.Hn.SirHE(Wigt'n
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W.W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt.Hn. ColEdw.J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,East)
Smith, RtHnJ Parker(Lanarks
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirCEH.(Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Welby, Lt.-Col ACE.(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York.E.R.)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H.(Yorks.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. ER(Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES said that the next Amendment standing in his name was to leave out Sub-section 3 of Clause 1. His objection to it was that it was incoherent, unintelligible, and unworkable. Sub-Section (a) of Sub-clause 3 proposed that an immigrant should be excluded from this country as undesirable who had not in his possession, or was not in a position to obtain, the means of decently supporting himself and his dependents, if any. That was a provision unknown to the law of any other country. It was quite true that there was some sort of approach to it in one or two of our Colonies, and some more approximate provision in the law of the United States; but even the latter did not go nearly as far as this sub-section. The law of the United States required that a man or a woman who landed on their shores should not be a person who was likely to become a charge on the public funds of the country, or on the locality in which he or she landed. That threw upon the immigrant the onus of establishing to the satisfaction of the immigration officer that he had got in his pocket the amount of money to support himself and his dependents, if any. But there was no stipulation as to the length of time for which it was necessary to support himself. Of course it would be possible for a man to show that though he was not in possession of a certain amount of money at the moment, he was in possession of a skilled trade, and that he might be able to obtain employment almost immediately.

This was an Amendment which raised a sharp line of contradistinction between the attitude of the Prime Minister and that of the ex-Colonial Secretary, the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. The Prime Minister, in answer to a Question put to him lately, emphatically declared that this Bill was not of a protective character, and that it was in no sense intended to shut out honest and diligent working foreigners who might find their way to our shores. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, on the contrary, said he hailed the advent of this measure as a step in the direction of protecting industrial labour in this country. He was disposed to think that the view entertained by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was the true one. The clause proposed to shut out a man from landing on those shores simply because he was poor.

Let him ask what was the *data* which had been laid before the Committee from extraneous sources or from the evidence of the Royal Commission. The ex-Colonial Secretary proposed that poverty should be the ground of exclusion of foreigners. The evidence laid before the Royal Commission distinctly established that the general body of foreigners who came to this country were industrious, sober people, who seldom differed from the wage-earning classes in this country. They, in fact, compared favourably with the British wage-earning classes in these respects. It was also shown that so far as moral character was concerned they compared favourably with the British artisans. Of course, that did not arise in this subsection, because other sub-sections dealt with criminals and those who became criminals after arriving here. This sub-section only dealt with people on the ground of poverty alone. He could conceive of cases in which a large number of people from foreign countries might come here, flooding the labour market, and displacing British labour; and that in those cases the Government might be justified in excluding those large numbers, or imposing some reasonable test on them. But there was no evidence to that effect. Paragraphs 129 and 131 of the Report of the Royal Commission said that there was no real competition on the part of these foreign immigrants with British labour. On the contrary, the foreign labourers who came here carried on new industries, such as slop-tailoring, certain classes of cabinet-making, and extensions of the cheap boot-making trade which did not exist before. The Royal Commission said on the whole they had arrived at the conclusion, after weighing the evidence on both sides, that it had not been proved that there was any serious displacement of direct skilled English labour. On the contrary, these three industries in which the aliens were engaged had been beneficial in various ways, because they had increased the demand for the consumption of goods manufactured in this country which had formerly been imported from abroad.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) asked what did the hon. and learned Gentleman say as to the displacement of unskilled labour?

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that the Report of the Royal Commission said that it was impossible to say how much unskilled labour had been displaced.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON said there was another paragraph which went much beyond that.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that the Royal Commission gave elaborate tables in which they showed the various occupations of aliens arriving in this country from Russia and neighbouring provinces in other countries — the great bulk of whom were Jews. These Jew aliens were almost entirely engaged in the cabinet-making trade, slop-tailoring—largely exported from this country—and the cheap boot-making trade. So that it was perfectly clear that they did not interfere with British labour. What conclusion did he draw? Shut out unhealthy and criminal aliens in proper form and by proper machinery; but why shut out those decent, honest, industrial labourers unless they displaced English labour. The only answer was that the country supposed, as the right hon. Member for West Birmingham suggested, that these aliens were competitors with English labourers. Therefore, he contended that this measure was intended to delude the country into the belief that the Conservative Government was the champion and defender of British labour as against foreign labour. What he wished to show was that one portion of the clause, as it stood, ought to be obliterated and another portion of the clause ought to be modified in certain directions at which he had hinted.

He passed on to other sub-sections of Sub-clause 3. Unless the right hon. Gentleman could state some grievance which the sub-section would deal with, he was entitled to ask the Committee to eliminate it. With regard to overcrowding, it had been established by the evidence of the Medical Officer of Health for London that it did not exist in the alien-inhabited districts to anything like the extent it did in the non-alien-inhabited districts. There was another very serious objection. The sub-section would prohibit the landing of an immigrant on the ground that he had been convicted of a criminal offence. He quite agreed that if satisfactory evidence was produced that a man had been convicted of an indictable offence, it would be a proper subject for consideration as to whether he should not be excluded; but a man might have committed some trivial offence involving no moral obliquity, and that was another matter. The Bill, however, proposed that a man sentenced in any foreign country for an offence should be excluded. The Committee was entitled to know what evidence would be submitted that a person had been convicted of a criminal offence. The only two classes of evidence were a record, or the very loose evidence that might be given by one executive officer to another. He could conceive nothing more dangerous than a system which depended on the statement of a Russian police officer to the officer to be appointed by the Home Secretary which did not involve any judicial responsibility. It was a violation of the elementary principles of justice; and he was amazed that right hon. Gentlemen, cherishing the same traditions as they did about the inviolability of English liberty, should propose to put it in the power of a police officer in Russia, Germany, or France, with the sanction of an official in this country, to deny the right to land.

The gravity of the proposal was even greater than that; because the sub-section stated that a man might enter if he could prove he was entering solely to avoid prosecution for a political offence. But how could he prove it? There would only be his *ipse dixit* that he was a political refugee, and that the Russian Government desired to capture him. He had not to satisfy any English Court; only the immigration officer appointed by the Home Secretary. Then if he wished to appeal if he were rejected, the immigration officer would point to the notice in Yiddish on the ship. Who was to judge whether the offence was political or not? It was a very nice question indeed as to what was a political offence and what was not. It formed the subject of a great deal of controversy from time to time; and the deciding factor was whether it had or had not a political tinge. But that was not of general acceptance; and the legal pundit that might be appointed might be only the local attorney. He would decide whether the offence was political or not; and on his judgment the political refugee might be sent back. He had, it was true, a kind of appeal to a non-judicial board; a more extraordinary solecism in English law he had never heard of. The right of asylum in this country had always been most jealously guarded, not by our statesmen but by our Courts. According to the idea of the Attorney-General, the King's writ was not to run as regarded the immigration officer or the immigration board. He ventured to assert that the section ought to be excluded from the Bill; that a fresh section should be drawn; and that a clause should be drawn devoted entirely to the question whether or not there should be exclusion on these grounds. He quite recognised how unworkable it all was, and how utterly the United States had failed to prevent the immigration of criminals into that country; but he would not object to some provision of that character. He objected, however, to the rejection of a man because he was poor. The test should be the possession of the will to work, and the physical power to work. The Bill would prevent such a man from bringing in his dependents. He asked the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to consider whether it was not an unkindly proposal to exclude an honest and industrious alien at a time of great suffering in Eastern Europe. It was a proposal entirely contrary to all the traditions of this country, and a violation of the freedom which this country had always afforded to people of other nationalities.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 21, to leave out Sub-section 3."—(*Mr. Atherley Jones.*)

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) asked what course the Chairman proposed to adopt in connection with the Amendment. It proposed to leave out a large portion of the measure, and would give rise to a Second Reading debate.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member handed me an Amendment which I thought he intended to move. It was desirable, however, that the debate should take place in detail; and the only course, therefore, is to put the first two lines of the section proposed to be omitted.

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'immigrant' in line 22, stand part of the clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he fully recognised that this was one of the most important parts of the Bill, and suggested that for convenience of discussion it would be better to first consider the various proposals for dealing with the Sub-sections (a) and (b).

Mr. Atherley-Jones.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES agreed to the suggestion and begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. EMMOTT said the Amendment he now moved opened up one of the most crucial and controversial parts of the Bill. The real question was whether poverty was to be by itself a test of an alien's coming into this country or not. Sub-section (a), the deletion of which he moved, provided that an alien should be excluded unless he could show he had the means of decently supporting himself. In his opinion the wording of the clause called for a good deal of explanation. What was, for instance, to be the test as to whether an alien had the means of decently supporting himself? These matters, however, he left to others. The question he wished to deal with was whether real harm was being done at this moment by the influx of aliens such as they had seen up to the present. He admitted that in places like Stepney there was some inconvenience. But the real question was whether evil was being done as a whole by the present influx.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that that was a question which could be more properly dealt with on Second Reading, or upon the Question that that clause stand part.

*MR. EMMOTT submitted that that amount of grievance rested upon a number of the aliens who came in to this country and settled here. He said he had waited to bring up this point on this particular Amendment because it was of the greatest importance that the country should know the facts. The point was what was the number of these aliens as compared with the aliens of other countries. If they took the figures of the last census they found there was a less population of aliens per thousand here than elsewhere. Compared with Germany they were only half as many, and with France only one-third. He further pointed out that in some cases these aliens, if they did not introduce new trades, at any rate developed new trades; that their effect upon the question of wages, therefore, could not have been very detrimental, and that there were a fewer number of paupers among them proportionately. The Home Secretary had said this state of things was getting worse, and had put alarming figures before the Committee as to the increase of the alien population of this country. Last year the right hon. Gentleman put before the House figures as to 1903 and finally apologised for them and withdrew them. This year he had given the figures for 1904 and had stated quite accurately that 194,986 aliens came into this country from Europe. Of those 99,278 were known to be transmigrants, and 7,697 were found later to be transmigrants. In addition he deducted 21,863 seamen and that left him with a figure of 75,148, the greater proportion of whom, he said, remained and settled in this country. The figures which the Home Secretary gave were official figures and he did not object to them; but he did object to the statement that the greater proportion of the 75,000 remained and settled in this country. That was merely a pious opinion of the Home Secretary. He could not prove it. He (Mr. Emmott) would submit figures which he believed would go far to show that the argument on which the Home Secretary had rested his plea could not be relied upon.

The only means they had of knowing anything about this matter was by the census figures of 1901 as compared with previous periods. In 1901 there were in this country, according to the census returns, 67,401 more aliens than there were in 1891. What he thought the Home Secretary might have done before putting those figures before the House and deducing that argument from them, was to have compared similar figures taken in the ten years from 1891 to 1900 with the actual census returns. That he (Mr. Emmott) had done. In those ten years the total number of aliens who were not stated to be transmigrants, who came into this country—less the seamen—were 369,772 or thereabouts. The number was actually larger, because in the first two years the number who came to Newhaven were not taken into account. That figure of 369,772 corresponded with the figure of 82,845 for 1904, which was the number of aliens coming into this country less the known transmigrants, and less the seamen, quoted by the Home Secretary. The Home Secretary reduced the figure of 82,000 to the figure of about 72,000 by deducting those who were afterwards found to be transmigrants, and also some two or three thousand who returned to the Continent by the help of the Jewish Board of Guardians and other bodies of that kind. Therefore, in order to make his (Mr. Emmott's figures compare with those of the Home Secretary, he reduced the 369,000 to 300,000, and he would take off 30,000 more on account of deaths, bringing it down to 270,000. According to the Home Secretary there should have been 270,000 more aliens in the country in 1901 than in 1891. The actual figures of the census were 67,401. He claimed to have shown that the Home Secretary had exaggerated at least four-fold the number of aliens who remained in this country. That was the only means of testing the reliability of such figures, and he believed it showed that the Home Secretary's argument was unreliable. The Home Secretary had treated the House with such courtesy and good temper that he was anxious not to say anything discourteous or offensive, but he was sorry that he had misled—no doubt unintentionally—so many people by quoting the figures to which he had called attention.

He believed there was no means of ascertaining what the balance of aliens who came into this country and settled there was, because there was no record of the number of aliens who went to or drifted back to the Continent. The number of those was very large. The Board of Trade, however, made a comparison of the balance inwards from Europe of all passengers, with the balance of aliens outwards to the countries out of Europe. It was assumed by the Board of Trade that the balance of passengers inward from Europe represented the net balance of aliens who came into this country from Europe. They knew positively the number of aliens on balance who left this country for countries out of Europe, and the Board of Trade regularly made the comparison. In the ten years to which he had already referred the excess in from Europe was 508,000, and the excess out to non-European countries was 329,000, leaving 179,000, from which had to be deducted the whole or the greater portion of the seamen. Here, however, was a difficulty. He could not even guess at the number of seamen who came into this country as passengers and left as seamen. But it was a curious coincidence that by deducting the whole of the seamen —111,000—there were left 68,000, which were very near the figures in the census returns. He could not, however, rely on those figures, and he would found on them only two arguments. First, that they were much safer figures than the Home Secretary's, and, secondly, that so far from the number of alien immigrants intending to settle here being unusually large in 1904 it was unusually small. In fact, there was the strongest reason to suppose that the number of aliens in this country at the end of 1904 was considerably smaller than at the beginning of the year. The balance in from Europe 84,389, and the balance out to places out of Europe, 83,000, left a difference of about 1,000, as compared with an average of 18,000, or 20,000 during the last ten or twelve years, from which had to be deducted the number of seamen who came here as passengers and went out as members of ships' crews. Therefore, seeing that they must deduct from the balance of 1,000 a proportion of the 12,000 odd seamen who came into this country and got engagements as members of ships' crews, he thought it was perfectly certain that, as the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had said, in 1904 the number of aliens in this country did not increase, but diminished. And to anybody who had followed the matter there was a perfectly good reason why that should be the case. Last year was the year of the great rate war of the shipping companies. Passages could be got from this country to America as low as £2 per person. From Germany they were all the time about £6. Therefore, a great many people who came to England, and aliens who were already here, took advantage of that low price in order to get out to America, and the probabilities were that the alien population was reduced in 1904 owing to that rate war.

He apologised for detaining the Committee so long with these details, but he wanted to put before them the conclusions to which he, after a good deal of study of the question, had come. The Committee knew that the evil in the past had not been a great evil. He thought he had shown conclusively that it did not grow worse in 1904, and if they were going to interfere with that traffic they would interfere with the shipping interest, they would stop or hinder the transmigrant trade, and diminish the returns of shippers and railways, and a great many other people who made money out of those transmigrants in this country. Under those circumstances he submitted that no case had been made out for introducing this new and novel principle of the poverty test. What might come in the future he could not tell. He quite admitted that the moment might arrive when we should have to protect ourselves against alien immigration. All he was pleading for was that at present no case had been made out for the poverty test, and until it was made out he protested against the crippling of our shipping. He wanted the Committee to think seriously of what those men were. Most of them were the victims of political or religious disabilities, or had been subject to conditions of a tyrannical kind in their own country. They saw before them a new home for their future in distant lands. They did not come to England, for the most part, meaning to stop here. They did not covet our workers' bread. He asked the Committee to think of this long, patient, unending stream of men—their faces worn with the labours and trials and hardships of the past, but with one little gleam of hope in their hearts as they looked across the ocean which separated them from the free lands of the West to which they desired to go, and he begged the Committee not to put obstacles in the way of these men, but rather to bid them God-speed on their long journey.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out sub-paragraph (a)."—(*Mr Emmott.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'if' stand part of the clause."

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars) desired to say a word with regard to the figures compiled by the Board of Trade. The hon. Member for Oldham had endeavoured to prove that there were no alien immigrants coming into this country at all.

*MR. EMMOTT said his figures related to 1904, and referred to immigrants coming and settling.

MR. BONAR LAW said that the argument of the hon. Member really meant that the whole alien question was a myth and ought to be treated as such.

*MR. EMMOTT said he did not contend that it was entirely a myth. He had dealt with the figures of the past, and particularly with 1904. It was just possible that some aliens left in 1904 who had settled here previously, but he did not think that number would be large.

MR. BONAR LAW said he was quarrelling, not with the hon. Member's words, but with his conclusion. If the conclusion of the hon. Member was that practically no aliens came into the country in 1904, his argument was rightly described as being that the whole question was a myth and ought to be treated as such. On the face of it that was a difficult position to hold, and it required some courage for a member of the Opposition to express such a view after the unusual, he believed unprecedented, action of certain Liberal Members and candidates in, if not dictating, at any rate suggesting to the Leader of the Opposition the course he should take on the Second Reading. They, at any rate, took a different view from that of the hon. Member, but they came from London, and perhaps were better able to judge, or, as was more likely, they knew that the men whom they expected to return them at the next election looked upon the question not as a myth, but as a reality, and that unless they showed some sympathy they would have little chance of being elected.

Several HON. MEMBERS: What about East Finsbury?

MR. DALZIEL asked, on a point of order, whether it would be possible for other hon. Members to traverse the same ground as the Parliamentary Secretary in dealing with this Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN understood that the hon. Gentleman was dealing with the argument of the hon. Member for Oldham that there was no such thing as a serious immigration of aliens.

MR. DALZIEL: Then we will be able to follow the same line and have another Second Reading debate.

MR. BONAR LAW asked the Committee to consider how the hon. Member attempted to prove his peculiar proposition. He had taken two sets of figures prepared by the Board of Trade and mixed them. One of those sets was relevant to the subject and was specially prepared for the purpose, while the other was not only admittedly unreliable, but absolutely irrelevant. There was little difference of opinion as to the figures prepared by the Board of Trade specially to deal with this subject. They had been prepared year after year since 1888 for the sole purpose of giving the country a means of judging the question dealt with by the Bill, and they showed that last year, after making every possible deduction, there came into this country 75,000 people of this class with the intention, so far as the Board had means of judging, of settling here. Taking those figures by themselves there was not much room for difference of opinion. It had been said that a great many who were not returned as such were really *en route* to other countries. He did not deny it, but after the Board had used every means at their disposal for finding them out there remained these 75,000. But if it was probable that a certain number of those who were returned as coming to this country for the purpose of settling did find their way to other countries, what grounds were there for not supposing that a considerable number who coming in at one port said they were transmigrants yet remained here instead of transmigrating? He thought it was not unfair to set off one class against the other; in any case he confidently asserted that so far as figures were available at all they showed that 75,000 of these people came into the country in 1904, and came, as far as the Board could judge, for the purpose of remaining.

Mr. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): Do you make that statement?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I say the Board of Trade statistics show that.

Mr. STUART SAMUEL: Do you make that statement?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I do; I repeat the statement.

Mr. STUART SAMUEL: I ask the hon. Gentleman whether he states that 75,000 came last year to settle.

Mr. BONAR LAW said he did so far as his information went. [Cries of "Oh!"] What more did hon. Gentlemen want? So far as these statistics were of any value they showed that last year 75,000 of these aliens came into this country and came to settle here. The hon. Member asked him what his private opinion was. It would not be worth anything.

Mr. EMMOTT asked whether the hon. Gentleman had tested these figures by the census. That was the real point.

Mr. BONAR LAW said he had not. He asked the Committee to observe this. The hon. Member began by drawing certain inference from the Board of Trade figures. He showed that those inferences were altogether wrong [Cries of "No"], and the hon. Member then turned round and asked him what was his private opinion and whether he had fortified it in some other way than by the Board of Trade figures. The curious process by which the hon. Gentleman arrived at this result was to leave out of account those figures which admittedly were prepared for this purpose, and to deal with figures which related not to alien immigration at all but to the general inflow and outflow of passengers between this country and Europe. Would it be believed that that set of figures on which the hon. Member relied was based on no actual knowledge of the number of foreigners who came to and went from this country, and that in the very book in which the figures were found it was pointed out that all that was done was to assume that the balance struck between those who came in and those who did not go out was composed of alien transmigrants? The book from which the hon. Gentleman quoted specially pointed out that figures obtained in that way could not be relied upon.

Mr. EMMOTT: I said that they were not reliable, but I said that they were much better than the other figures.

Mr. BONAR LAW pointed out that the alien figures were obtained by the exercise of statutory powers, whereas the figures in the other Return were entirely voluntary. They were returns furnished by the shipping companies and railway companies, and, as was pointed out in the book, some of them made returns in one way and some in another; some included children, others did not. But, even if the second set of figures were reliable, they would be altogether irrelevant. The object of the Bill was not to prevent aliens from coming into the country; it was to prevent undesirable aliens from coming in. The assumption of the hon. Member for Oldham and of anyone who had based his argument on those figures was that because a certain number of aliens went out always to America there was no need for special legislation; but they did not pretend that they went out in the same year that they came in. What happened, on the hon. Member's own assumption, was that we made this country a training ground in which we received all the undesirables and trained them until they were able to go out. The fact that these aliens could and did go from this country to America and settled there, where the regulations were much more stringent than the Government desired in this country, showed that they were not undesirable and were not the class of aliens who would be dealt with in this Bill. The argument he had listened to from the hon. Gentleman with so much surprise amounted simply to this: a certain amount of impure water came into his supply every week, but the plumber told him that exactly the same amount of impure water went out as that which came in, and, therefore, the right hon. Gentleman concluded that there was no need to alter his system.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the temptation to repeat the arguments used on the Second Reading of this Bill was very great, because already they had had a repetition of the figure portion of the Second Reading discussion. The Secretary to the Board of Trade had left out of his speech a fact which was absolutely material to a study of this question. For the last fifteen years the Board of Trade had been reporting on the immigration figures and explaining them, and many years ago the same gentleman who was still reporting annually, Mr. Llewellyn Smith, explained in a Yellow Paper laid before the House the whole principle on which these figures should be dealt with and understood. In that Paper he prophesied before the census of 1891 what the result of the census would be in regard to alien immigration, and he made the same prophecy before last census, and on each occasion the census wholly confirmed his prophecy. The whole of the argument of the Opposition both this year and last was based on these census figures, but they were wholly left out of consideration in the speech of the Secretary to the Board of Trade. Mr. Llewellyn Smith showed in the Yellow Paper, and again in his evidence before Lord James, that if they added together each year's figures for the last ten years the result would give an enormous increase in the alien immigration. But Mr. Llewellyn Smith explained in his evidence that they must not assume anything of the kind. In the Yellow Paper he prophesied before the census of 1891 what the result of that census would be in regard to alien immigration, and he made the same prophecy before last census, and on each occasion the census wholly confirmed his prophecy. Last year the real figures were far less than anything Mr. Llewellyn Smith himself indicated. He himself stated in the Second Reading debate that the probability was that there was a very small increase in the alien population in 1903, and that there must have been a decrease in 1904. Therefore, the statement in regard to the 75,000 was a mere delusion, and it was one which the Secretary to the Board of Trade ought not really to have put before the Committee without, at all events, attempting to accompany it with an explanation of the census figures. Last year the rate war gave an exceptional state of things, and they knew that possibly this year there might be some small increase in the alien population of this country; but it was false to pretend to the people of this country that this Bill was needed owing to an increase in the alien population such as had been suggested by Government speakers. That argument was absolutely negatived by the figures showing that there was a smaller alien population in this country than in that of any other great Power.

They wanted to know more than mere figures. They asked what the position of the Government was in regard to the three lines which it was proposed to omit. The Secretary to the Board of Trade, who was a protectionist, had used a free-trade argument in regard to this Bill. There were two parties in the Government with regard to the Bill, and, although the sympathies of the Secretary of the Board of Trade must lean to the one, his language leant to the other. The hon. Gentleman had adopted the view of the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Prime Minister, but a wholly different view of the Bill had been given by the late President of the Local Government Board who was now Chief Secretary for Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman had adopted to the full the language of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, who in the Second Reading debate on 2nd May used these words—

> ". . . we have not heard anything of what, to my mind, is very much more important—of the principle which underlies the Bill and makes the Bill only a step towards much greater things. This Bill is defended partly because, as we are told, these aliens are undesirable, because they are frequently diseased and often criminal. I am not inclined to lay the slightest stress on these points, though I do not doubt that there is evidence to show, and that facts do show, that they bring a larger proportion of diseased and vicious persons into our midst than would be the case

with ordinary immigrants. But the principal reason why this Bill is brought on, and why it is supported by all of us, is because it is an effort to protect the working classes of this country against the labour, the underpaid labour, of a class of immigrants sent here."

Before the Committee passed from these words they ought to know which was the view taken by the Government. In the case of the United States it had been held in the Supreme Court that the words, not of this year's Bill, but of last year's Bill, which were taken from the American Act, did not exclude men who had no money and who had willing hands. The Home Secretary, who was in charge of last year's Bill, stated that the Government did not desire to exclude men with willing hands, but that was wholly different from the view expressed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. Surely the Committee ought to know the sense in which the words were interpreted by the Prime Minister. Would they not be used to exclude competition? The words were dangerously vague, and the Committee must be assured that they were so framed that they would not be interpreted by those who had the working of the Bill in such a way as to make this a mere measure of protection.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that the problem before the Committee was whether we should or should not exclude from this country persons who from their circumstances were likely to be a burden to the public. As to the assertion that the question of free trade or protection was raised, the introduction of these strictly economic doctrines as applied to inanimate goods led to many fallacies when those doctrines were applied to human beings. Not much was gained by bandying across the floor such terms as free trade and protection when the influx and efflux of human beings was concerned. An hon. Gentleman had said that he could easily conceive circumstances in which the influx of aliens from abroad would cause such a great dislocation of industry that means would have to be taken to deal with it. Such circumstances might be conceived, but this Bill would not deal with a crisis of that kind. The very wording of the clause and the definition given of "undesirable alien" were sufficient to prove that the Bill was not intended to deal with such a crisis. The Bill was limited to the exclusion of undesirable aliens. The alien who came into this country without pecuniary means and without the prospect of remunerative employment was undesirable because he constituted a possible public burden. It was quite true, and nobody could deny it, that there might be occasions in which the alien came to this country without means and without any assured prospect of employment, and yet by his capacity and energy he might be able to support himself and become an addition to the wealth-producing power of the country. But because the existence of such cases was not denied, was Parliament to be precluded from dealing with the generality of cases coming under the description of the Bill? Was Parliament to be prevented from dealing with a large class of persons who presumably might become a burden on the rates or on the community by way of charity because a certain number of them proved able to support themselves? That was a very irrational attitude. We had to deal with broad facts and general descriptions, even though exceptions would always occur.

The only question which the Committee had to determine at that moment was whether or not, in the interests, first, of the community at large, and secondly and more particularly of the special districts in the Metropolis and elsewhere on which the burden of dealing with these persons chiefly fell—whether or not we were bound as a nation by our traditions or by common considerations of humanity to allow these strangers to become a portion of our own community, and, if they chose to naturalise themselves, to claim all the rights and privileges of British birth and citizenship. Were we not justified in saying that we had a right to exclude such persons until they could show, not necessarily by the production of a large sum of money, but in some way or other that they had an expectation of earning their livelihood, seeing that we by our own legislation were bound to support those who could not support themselves, and to carry out those sanitary regulations the enforcement of which threw such a heavy burden on any community which had more than a certain number of these poor immigrants to deal with? Unless hon. Gentlemen opposite were prepared to meet directly the particular state of things which he had ventured to describe, they were bound to support the Government in this, what they believed to be, the cardinal principle of the Bill.

*MR. WILLS (Dorsetshire, N.) said he had promised his constituents to support a just and reasonable measure for the expulsion of aliens; but it was just because he desired a just and reasonable measure that he objected to the clause under consideration. This clause of the Bill was directed against the poor as the poor.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, the poor as a burden.

*MR. WILLS said the expulsion clauses later in the Bill dealt with the alien who became a burden on the rates. The clause under consideration was not necessary for that purpose. No definition was really possible as to what was actual poverty. It was impossible to say what immigrant would or would not add to the wealth of the community. The United States found such a clause unworkable, and admitted an alien who was physically able to work. He knew of at least one man who was at the head of a large and important business which was being carried on to the great advantage of this country, who would have been excluded from entering this country if this Bill had been law when he came here. The numbers of aliens who actually came on the rates showed a smaller percentage than in the case of our own countrymen. The case against the poor alien as a burden, therefore, broke down as regards the past. But the Secretary to the Board of Trade declared there were 75,000 aliens who came to reside here last year. The Opposition, with the same figures available, came to the conclusion that scarcely any did so. Would the hon. Gentleman say that the figures published by the Board of Trade proved the Opposition to be wrong in their conclusion?

MR. BONAR LAW said that most certainly he maintained those figures bore only one interpretation, and that was the interpretation he had given to them.

*MR. WILLS said he had no wish to pursue the matter further then; but the hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that those figures did not even pretend to deal with the whole outflow of aliens. He did not think they need enter into any nice questions of international ethics in regard to this matter. It could be tested by the ordinary rules of conduct. They had never objected to the expulsion of the profligate, or the criminal—the really undesirable alien; but they did object to the exclusion of the poor because they were poor. He challenged hon. Members opposite to state to their constituents that that would be the line of conduct they would adopt in their private lives He believed that the English working classes would show a great deal of sympathy for the men and women from other lands ruined, in many cases, by the iniquitous laws which had been enforced against them by their own Governments. The English people certainly did not believe in the right of the oppressor to oppress the people in any country, and this was the basis of the right of asylum so long enjoyed. The Government had given their case away by admitting the poor alien who was rendered poor by political persecution. What about the religious refugee? He, too, might be reduced to a condition of abject poverty; and surely he, in the estimation of this country, was not less worthy of sympathy? What right had any Government to go behind the poverty in the one case if not in the other? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University was very anxious that the reflux of undesirables from America to this country should be stopped; but this part of the Bill only dealt (as the Attorney-General said) with aliens "in bulk." Undesirables were not sent back from America in bulk, but in twos and threes. He thought the country would look with broader sympathy on this clause than hon. Gentlemen opposite, and he should vote for the Amendment,

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said that he could not assent to the proposition of the hon. Member that this clause excluded the poor aliens because they were poor. The hon. Gentleman was under a misapprehension. The section not only related to the pecuniary position of the immigrant but also to his prospects.

*Mr. WILLS said his view was that prospective poverty was best dealt with by the clause which expelled an alien when he came on the rates.

Lord HUGH CECIL said his point was that a man was not excluded because he was poor, but because he would remain poor. He did not agree that they should exclude aliens whenever they liked. That was not a noble doctrine; but in his opinion it was a reasonable proposition that we should exclude undesirable aliens and require each nation to deal with its own social failures. They should have the right to force other nations to consume their own smoke. He had, therefore, no hesitation in voting with the Government in respect to this Amendment, though he was not quite certain that the wording of the subsection as it stood carried out the object indicated by the Prime Minister. If it was understood that their object was to exclude paupers and vagrants and other persons of no value to the community, then it would be desirable to express a little more distinctly what was the intention of the rather vague words at present embodied in the clause. The words were vague words, and, having regard to their ambiguity, it was desirable to press the Government more directly for an explanation of what they meant.

Sir JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester le-Street) said he had listened to the Prime Minister's speech with considerable interest, but he did not see any words in the Bill to give his views effect. He did not think there was anyone who objected to those people who were really undesirable being kept out, but what he feared was that as the Bill was drawn it would keep out and inflict a great injustice on many who would be of great advantage to this country. He personally knew some gentlemen who had arrived in this country as alien poor to whom this country owed very much. Those gentlemen had become wealthy and respected citizens. If such a Bill as this had been in operation, however, those gentlemen would have been prohibited from coming to this country at all. As to the alien statistics he was quite content to accept the authority of Mr. Llewellyn Smith on this question, for his views carried very much greater weight than those of the Secretary to the Board of Trade. He had been somewhat surprised that shipowners had not taken stronger action against the proposals of the Bill. He remembered very well the prophecies made by hon. Gentlemen opposite of the great benefit of the Merchandise Marks Act. The effect of that measure had been to take a great deal of trade away from the country which used to be done here. He was very much afraid that the Aliens Bill would have the same effect. A large number of aliens passed through this country, and our ships were employed to take them away. If the Bill remained as it stood much of that trade would be lost to us. He could not see what advantage would be got if they accepted the Bill. He hoped a much more satisfactory reply would be made with regard to the figures than the Committee had heard from the Secretary of the Board of Trade.

*Mr. REA (Gloucester) said the general considerations for this measure advanced by the noble Lord and the Prime Minister depended for their force entirely on the statistical argument. If the figures of the Board of Trade were correct there was a case for this Bill. If the figures given by the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, and confirmed by the census but denied by the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Board of Trade, were found to be accurate, there was no case for the Bill. The hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Board of Trade said his figures were correct; that they were official and carefully prepared; but there was one test that could be applied to them which he had not had regard to. When a ship left these shores for America, the Board of Trade made a Return that there were so many emigrants, of whom so many were British and so many foreign, but in America a far more strict investigation was made. There was a general declaration made here, and general figures were given, but when a ship arrived at New York the immigrants were taken in hand and carefully examined, and if they had foreign names and a foreign accent they were put down as foreign. They had to declare the places of their birth on oath. He had the figures from New York, and they proved that the figures of the Board of Trade were absolutely worthless. He had the particulars of the third-class passengers who went out in the Cunard steamers and who landed at New York during the first four months of this year, and what did they show? According to the manifest supplied to the Board of Trade the number of passengers for that period was 13,048, of whom 8,519 were foreign and 4,529 were British, but when they took the American figures they found that 9,940 were foreign, showing an error in the Board of Trade figures, as checked by the more severe examination at New York, of no less than 1,000 for the sailings of one steamship company for a period of one-third of the year. He could show almost the same figures and the same proportion in the sailings of another steamship company. The White Star Line in the same period landed at New York 19,244 steerage passengers, of whom, according to the Board of Trade figures, 10,539 were foreign and 8,705 were British. But when these passengers were carefully and individually examined by the American authorities they found that 7,711 were British and 11,720 belonged to other countries. There, again, was an error shown with regard to the numbers carried by another company of over 1,000. He did not know why they preferred to call themselves British when at a British port, but when they got to New York their statements were tested, and the results showed that the Board of Trade figures, though authoritative and official, were not accurate. The whole case for the Bill rested on the statistical argument which, he submitted, had completely broken down. He should, therefore, without hesitation vote for the Amendment.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said there was no ground for the contention that the class of people who came here were paupers. It was not as though the European States dumped their paupers on our shores and bore the expenses; and people who were able to pay their own expenses could not be said to belong to the pauper class. Moreover, the bulk of these people had a means of making a living, though they might not be able to prove it to the satisfaction of a Government officer. The great majority worked as tailors. They were not tailors in the ordinary sense of the term, but they had a special gift in that direction, and, so far from taking work from our own people, they created fresh trades which gave to our own people occupations they would never have had but for these aliens. In Manchester they had created a cheap-clothing trade, which had given rise to a demand for trimmings and other things, with the result that if the aliens were abolished from Manchester at least 10,000 Englishmen would be deprived of their occupation. The same was true of the East End of London. There had been an enormous development of the cheap-furniture trade, and London had become the capital of that industry. But the whole trade rested on a basis of alien labour and gave occupation to thousands of our own countrymen. By abolishing aliens from England the Government would not give work to, but take work from, Englishmen. These men were not paupers. Would it be said that an Englishman who could pay to take his family to Russia was a pauper or likely ever to become one? There were fewer paupers amongst these people than in any other class of the community. And why? For the simple reason that they had been strained through the filter of self-denial. They were a superior class, and to talk of them as paupers was monstrous. He came from a community that had learnt its business from alien immigrants, the people of Lancashire having got their industry from the Huguenots. He, therefore, warned the country against committing a suicidal act.

*MR. LEVY considered that the clause under discussion was one of the most important in the Bill and ought to have due consideration by the Committee. In its present form it would not protect the British workman from an influx of aliens. If an employer wanted what the supporters of the Bill called pauper labour, it appeared to him all he would need to do was to go or send an agent to the port of embarkation on the other side of the water and give the men a contract to work for him for six or twelve months or less at wages of say 1s. or 2s. a day. Under this clause they could not then be excluded unless the boards were to be invested with such extraordinary powers as would bring the greatest danger and discredit upon this country. The Question he would put to the Home Secretary, and to which he felt justified in pressing for a reply, was this, if a man came with a definite engagement to work for 1s. or 2s. a day or any other sum, would the Government exclude him? There was no Answer, and the Committee would draw its own conclusion.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

ALIENS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. GRANT LAWSON, (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out Sub-paragraph (a).—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'if' stand part of the clause."

MR. LEVY (continuing his speech), said he appreciated the fact that the Question he put to the Home Secretary before the adjournment was one which the right hon. Gentleman was probably not prepared to reply to on the spur of the moment. He would repeat it now. Would a man be considered to be able decently to support himself if he came to this country under a contract to work for 1s. or 2s. a day.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said if a man could support himself decently and knew that he could get employment in this country at fair wages he would undoubtedly pass.

*MR. LEVY said that clearly meant that the Bill was not going to protect the British workman as stated by the promoters, but on the contrary would be the means of reducing wages and setting up a system of sweating. He denied that the alien immigrant displaced the British workman, and pointed out that in the year 1881 the number of men employed in coal-mining, the boot trade, furniture trade, and tailoring trade was 852,000. In the year 1901 the number of workers employed in these four industries in which aliens were supposed to be largely employed had increased by 428,000; yet only 37,000 aliens were employed in them, which showed that it was not true that these people were taking bread out of the mouths of the British workmen. The clause in its present form would exclude a large number of the very poorest who were transmigrants, and thereby affect the shipping companies bringing them to this country and the railway companies carrying them in this country to the extent of not less than £1,000,000 every year. He hoped, therefore, that the clause would be altered in a humane spirit. Let it not be said that they slammed the door against anyone simply because he was poor.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said the hon. Member who had just sat down concluded his remarks by an appeal to the Committee not to shut the door against aliens coming to this country simply because they were poor. But, surely, if a man arrived absolutely destitute in this country, rather than starve he would be prepared to take work at a wage far below the standard wage of this country, and therefore would not be an influence to keep the standard of wages up to the point which our own people through their trades unions had fixed as fair. If the hon. Gentleman had been acquainted with the actual conditions in those parts of London where the alien was almost paramount he would have known that the trades-union workman was undercut and driven out of the district by those people. The position taken up by hon. Gentlemen opposite was a singular one. They first of all objected to the Bill and accused its supporters of evil intentions merely because they desired to keep up the standard of wages in this country, and then they appealed to the Committee not to shut the door in the face of an alien on the ground of poverty. It was somewhat remarkable to find hon. Gentlemen opposite opposing this Bill, and to find them at the same time saying that if it was not carried it would inflict a great injury on the people of this country, for that was the meaning of the piteous appeal of Radical East End Members and candidates to the Leader of the Opposition. They had apparently quite forgotten the resolution passed by the Trades Union Congress at Leeds, last September, which called upon the Government to pass restrictive legislation in order that the mines of this country should not be worked by foreigners at a rate of wages which was under the trades-union standard.

The strongest reason for believing that alien immigration would destroy the value of new legislation against sweating, was that it had, as far as East London went, practically destroyed the value of such legislation as now existed. In the alien-ridden districts of London the Factory Acts were practically a dead letter. The case need not be stated by him. He was prepared to submit to the Committee—first, the evidence of Mr. Thomas O'Grady, secretary of the London Branch of the Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, who told the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration that "no notice at all was taken of the Factory Acts" by the East End aliens; and secondly, that of Mr. Herbert Evans, Assistant Factory Inspector for East London, who declared before the same Commission that evasions of the law in regard to the hours of employment for children and young women had become "almost systematic." He described how the small alien master shifted his workshop from place to place and pleaded ignorance of the law when prosecuted. That gentleman also remarked that the number of native (British) employers proceeded against in East London for breaches of the Factory Acts was insignificant. As evidence of the temper of the alien population in industrial matters Mr. O'Grady's testimony and that of his colleague, Mr. Armstell, was very striking. They told the Commission how the strike of 1890 (in the boot trade) had resulted in a fair settlement accepted by both masters and men. But the value of that settlement had been destroyed by the alien invasion. Once there was a Jewish branch of the union, but the members dropped off and took to sweating on their own account, employing "greeners" brought over and bought "at cattle price" (as Mr. O'Grady expressed it) working at 50 per cent. less than the rate agreed upon between the masters' federation and the men's union. How could we possibly work a factory code or an anti-sweating law with a population such as this?

The Opposition, he thought, had, at last, that night, grasped the nettle. They had acknowledged that it was an economic question. If hon. Members opposite contended that the true solution of this problem was not a Bill of this sort, but a stiffening of our factory and health legislation, he would ask them to consider the effect that these aliens in large numbers had on great masses of our population. This was not a matter which affected one or two constituencies. At the present moment it affected over a million working-class people in London, and day by day would affect more and more the industrial population of the great towns throughout the kingdom. One hon. Member had pointed out that had we not allowed aliens to come here seeking refuge from political or religious tyranny, certain industries would never have grown up in this country, and he pointed to the great linen industry introduced by the Huguenots. But the hon. Gentleman forgot that the Huguenots brought their wealth and skill and were competent men. They formed no Ghettos and they sweated no labour. The majority of the Alien immigrants of to-day were physically inefficient and were glad to come here to work and to live under conditions which no British workman would tolerate and which the law forbade. When the Huguenots came here they came to a sparsely-populated country, but now it was over-populated and more than two-thirds of the population lived in the towns. Both sides of the House should, in dealing with this problem, endeavour to take a broad-minded and non-Party view, and should remember that if they did not adopt some measure which would exclude the undesirable alien they would create in this country a most deplorable situation, which must result in a strong anti-Semitic movement. It was all very well to talk about its being the traditional policy of this country to give to political refugees a domicile, but if that policy was to be carried to its logical conclusion nowadays, it meant that we were inviting 5,000,000 oppressed Russian Jews to come to this country, and it was idle to say that because a wrong had been inflicted upon these people in their own country, we were entitled to inflict a further wrong upon our own people by allowing them to come here. He sincerely hoped that this part of the Bill would be carried, and that express conditions would be inserted for the exclusion from this country of contract labour which had been refused admission into the United States or elsewhere.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE remarked that during the debate hon. Members opposite had treated the Committee to a good deal of bad law, bad political economy, and bad history. The hon. Gentleman had given the Committee his view of the history of the arrival in this country of the Huguenots, and had described them, as it were, as persons who were fairly well-off, and who came here with well-packed portmanteaux, hat boxes, and Gladstone bags. His own view of the historic movement into this country was that it was not a movement that took place at one particular date—any one year—as the hon. Member seemed to think, but was spread over a considerable period of time. Whether this Bill were a wise one or not, it was impossible in principle to draw any distinction between the earlier migrations and the migrations of to-day. The great body of the Huguenot refugees, for instance, who arrived in this country did so under circumstances of great poverty, and their competition was strongly objected to by the workmen of those days. Not long ago he saw some very interesting extracts upon the point in the St. James's Gazette, which he believed was a Conservative newspaper. [Cries of "No."] Then, never mind what the name of the paper was, but he knew it was a Unionist organ, and it published a very interesting account of large meetings, held at that time in the neighbourhood of London, of working men who protested and memorialised the House against the unfair competition of the Huguenot refugees. After hearing the Prime Minister's speech, and comparing it with the speeches of some of the Government's supporters, not to mention the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, they could not on that side understand on what ground the Bill was defended. Was it defended on the ground that it would keep out the illegitimate competition of competent and able workmen, or on the ground that it would merely keep out the incompetent workmen? They had a right to ask the Government which horse they were riding, for they could not ride both.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said hon. Members opposite kept casting flies over the Ministerial Benches to see whether the fish would rise. The other day they tried to catch the shipowners—[AN HON. MEMBER: And they rose.] On the contrary, the shipowners were generally satisfied with the Amendments which were put down to meet their views. He ventured to think that those whom the noble Lord had now endeavoured to attract would be equally shy of his inducements. They defended the Bill because they wished to keep out the incompetent aliens, who might become a charge on the country. That policy was clearly laid down, as the noble Lord opposite had admitted, by the Prime Minister. The noble Lord was quite justified in asking him what his views were, and he thought that he had given a distinct Answer to his challenge. Hon. Gentlemen opposite who had taken part in this discussion, had constantly thrown it in their teeth that by this Bill the Government were endeavouring to make a new crime, and that crime was poverty, and that they were endeavouring to keep out of this country all these poor aliens. This sub-section provided that an alien who came to settle here must show that he was able to live as a decent citizen. The Bill proceeded upon the principle that there was no reason why this country should put itself under an obligation to maintain the destitute of foreign countries. He thought not only that aliens who were likely to become a charge upon the rates ought to be kept out, but that those who were likely to become a charge upon charity should be admitted with great caution.

He had been asked whether an alien would be refused admission who had an agreement to work in this country. Of course, if a man could produce evidence to show that he was coming here to enter into an employment at a fair wage, the immigration officer would pass him. There was no desire to keep out any alien who would be able to maintain himself and live up to the public-health requirements simply because he might compete with the labourers of this country. The Huguenots had been referred to, but many of them were people of means, and those who were poor were by no means undesirable aliens in the sense of the Bill, because they had a knowledge of trades by which they were able to maintain themselves independently in this country. Not only so, but they introduced all sorts of new trades, and that showed that they were not undesirable aliens as described in this sub-section.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said a large number of figures had been given and there had been a lot of talk about the Huguenot refugees, but he did not think these things had anything at all to do with the question. It had been said by the other side that the working men of this country were in favour of this Bill. He admitted that the working men were not against excluding undesirables if they could get at the exact meaning of that term. That was to him the gist of the whole thing. What they wanted to know was what was an undesirable so far as the welfare of the country was concerned. It was possible that a man with plenty of money might be more undesirable than a man without a shilling in his pocket. The Home Secretary had let loose in that discussion a very important consideration—that a man might be brought here under contract to work. If a man came here and could show that he had work to do he was, regardless of his character, a desirable.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I am sure the hon. Member does not wish to misrepresent me. My point was this—that if a man coming in here brought a letter showing he could get employment, the immigration officer would not be likely to reject him on the ground that he would not be able to support himself.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said that was just what he was trying to say. If there was a dispute in this country an employer could go to the Continent and engage men, no matter how undesirable they were. [Loud MINISTERIAL cries of "No, No!"] Would hon. Gentlemen opposite allow the Home Secretary to conduct his own case? Were hon. Members opposite in confabulation with the Home Secretary when he drew up the Bill? Did they hold a Cabinet meeting? The Home Secretary gave them one Answer and Caliban gave another. There was one hon. Gentleman in that House who had come over here in a tramp steamer with no work to go to and he was supporting this Bill through thick and thin. That Gentleman had been honoured by the Government and they all honoured him, for he bore his title honourably, but, nevertheless, he came over to this country a friendless boy to take the first employment he could get, and yet he was in favour of the Bill, which would exclude men who were in the same category as himself. The Home Secretary had said that all a man had to do was to show the immigration officer that he could maintain himself and his dependents in this country. It was like the old lady's advice that they should never go into the water until they had learned to swim. How could an alien show that he could maintain himself until he had found employment? Did the Home Secretary know why the immigration laws were passed in America? It was because of the contract labour that was being imported. If a man went to New York or any other port and stated that he had got work he would not be allowed to land. He hoped the same principle would not be insisted upon here. The Bill stated that an alien was undesirable if he could not show that he had in his possession, or was in a position to obtain, the means of "decently supporting himself and his dependents (if any)." What was the meaning of "decently?" Who was to be the judge of decency? There were some men whose judgment might be affected by an attack of indigestion after dinner. He had often said that the sentence passed on a prisoner depended on the Judge's stomach. It was quite possible under the Bill for honest, trustworthy, desirable men to be shut out and men whose every action and intention would entirely contravene all dictates of morality to be admitted. The working men of East Finsbury were entirely against the Bill. Scotch miners did not object to alien immigrants if they came of their own accord to seek work.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said that a resolution was passed by the Trades Union Congress last year, in the following terms—

"That we urge on the Government to take such steps as shall prevent foreign and unskilled labour from entering mines."

*Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) asked whether the hon. Member was aware that a man had to serve two years before he could work as a skilled miner. In the mines of Scotland these unskilled men were sent with Davy-lamps in their hands into the mines to the jeopardy of the other workers. All that the resolution required was that the men should be properly trained. We were the greatest emigrating nation under the sun. Our sons went everywhere. But they would be turned back as aliens if measures like this were in operation. What the working men of this country demanded was a fair field and no favour for all classes, whether they reached these shores as steerage or as cabin passengers.

Sir CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he wished to correct a statement made by an hon. Member for a Division of Lancashire before dinner, to the effect that if the Bill were placed on the Statute-book and aliens were thereby kept out they would deprive the East End of London of the cheap-furniture trade. He rented a factory not long ago to people who made this furniture. They were not aliens at all, though they were of Semitic origin. There was no harm in that. They were financed from the other side, they paid their rent, and that was all he had to bother his head about. It was absurd to say that if the Bill were passed the cheap-furniture trade would leave the East End of London. Statements were frequently made with reference to individual trades, with a view to prejudicing this Bill with the public, which left much to be desired on the score of correctness.

Mr. CHURCHILL said the Committee had had a very interesting speech from the hon. Member for Mid-Durham. He thought that was a very encouraging thing in these days when organised labour was asserting for itself in the country a position apart from either of the great Parties. The language of the hon. Member for Mid-Durham showed that he was on the side of what was generous and large-minded, and not on the side of what was narrow, selfish, sordid, and harsh. It was quite true, as the hon. Member had pointed out, that there was the very greatest difference between an individual who sought this country as a refuge, and labourers who were brought here or to the Colonies in batches for the purpose of artificially lowering wages in the labour market. He hoped that difference was thoroughly realised by the representatives of labour and capital on the benches opposite. As had been pointed out by the hon. Gentleman before dinner, any man who could show that he had a contract in this country, or any number of men who were brought over and could show that they had a prospect of immediate employment, would not be within the scope of the terms of this sub-section in any way.

The Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Oldham raised a vital issue—namely, whether poverty as such, and unaccompanied by any other disadvantage or disagreeable circumstance, should be a sufficient ground for excluding aliens from our shores. It had been pointed out that a healthy man was not destitute. If he had the intention and desire to work he was not a burden to the community, but an asset. This clause had three or four sub-sections, but the sub-section they were dealing with was the only one that could be operative. All the others were shams. Everyone knew that if a man chose to pay a few shillings to secure a cabin passage he would be able to come into this country without let or hindrance at all. Every other disqualification which could attach to an immigrant was provided for in the other sub-sections. Poverty, and poverty alone, was the disqualification provided for in this sub-section. His hon. friend the Member for Greenwich had said quite reasonably that if a man was likely to loaf about the country sleeping under hedges, and not able to maintain himself properly, it was very proper that the country should exclude such a man. But he submitted that such a case would be almost always excluded under other sub-sections.

Let them take the question whether a person should be excluded from the country on the ground of poverty alone. The question of alien immigration divided itself absolutely into two sections—the exclusion of immigrants in volume and the improvement in the quality of immigration. It was as easy to reduce the quantity as it was hard to improve the quality. The Government had been asked to-night to which of these two courses they adhered. Did they want reduction in the body of alien immigration, or was it an improvement in the quality they were seeking? In regard to quality, the attitude which many on his side of the House had adopted was well known to the Committee. They wished to exclude the undesirable alien. If there was a practical plan, produce it by all means, and there would not be any great objection. Nothing, on the other hand, would be more easy than to reduce the number of alien immigrants. But the necessity must be shown by statistics. Did right hon. Gentlemen opposite deny that there were fewer aliens in this country in proportion to the population than in any other country? It had been denied to-night by one of the most able Members on the Treasury Bench—the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. The hon. Member stated that 75,000 aliens settled in this country last year. Did the Attorney-General make himself responsible for that figure? Was the right hon. and learned Member a party to that assertion? He paused for a reply. He was sorry the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade was not in his place. There were very great disadvantages in the course of debate when members of the Government who occupied positions of importance came down to the House and made highly controversial speeches, and did not remain to hear the criticism, or to answer inquiries which might arise. If 75,000 immigrants came to this country last year, and if the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade was right that in the last ten years the increase in the alien population of this country had been 750,000, that was a very serious number. An increase of 7,000 a year would not be a serious question, because the population was increasing at the rate of 400,000, but 750,000 in ten years would indeed be a serious question and would justify some of the enthusiasm of the hon. Gentlemen opposite. If that number had landed in this country in the last ten years, where had they all been accommodated? It was only in particular districts in the country—in Stepney and in the East End of London, in parts of Glasgow and Leeds, that the alien question had produced a problem of a grave and complex character, but those were only particular districts, and so far as he knew they were the only localities in this country where the question could be said to be real. He admitted that it might be an acute question in these cases, but it was in no sense a national, a racial, or an economic question. Except in these particular places it was a Party question pure and simple, which had been raised to a position of fictitious importance because it was believed to have in it the makings of a Party cry when an election, which was apprehended with some anxiety, was approaching. Even the Prime Minister was careful not to associate himself with the figures his subordinate had quoted, and the Attorney-General wrapped himself up in gloomy silence. The Royal Commission said the nearest approach to accurate information about the number of alien immigrants who settled annually was to be found in the Census Returns, and these Returns stated that the number was between 6,000 and 7,000 and not between 70,000 and 80,000. If those figures were wrong the statement they had heard from the Treasury Bench was most misleading. If the Secretary to the Board of Trade believed that they were correct he could not have made himself thoroughly acquainted with the details of the question on which he professed to advise the House; and if the hon. Gentleman believed that they were not correct, then he would be drawn to a conclusion which the Chairman would not allow him to express in Parliamentary language. He wished to direct the attention of the Committee to the fact that when these grossly inaccurate figures were quoted, no one on the Treasury Bench got up and supported them; but, nevertheless, the Prime Minister, the Minister in charge of the Bill, the Under-Secretary for the Home Department, and the right hon. and learned Attorney-General, instead of putting the Committee right on the matter, all sat there and took full advantage of allowing the House to believe the statements which they at least knew to be misleading.

He should regret to have to put an undue strain on the indulgence of hon. Gentlemen opposite. He would support in the division the Amendment of his hon. friend, because it embodied the simple proposition, on the merits of which the country would have to decide, that in the present state of alien immigration, and in the present state of labour and trade in this country, mere poverty, as such, should not be a sufficient reason for excluding aliens from our shores. That was a substantive proposition which would induce him to support the hon. Gentleman in the lobby. But he could not resist a passing expression of contempt at the spectacle of a great Party trying to retrieve its shattered reputation by exploiting and aggravating the miseries of some of the weakest and poorest of mankind.

*MAJOR EVANS GORDON said he should like to thank the hon. Member for Oldham for the kind manner in which the hon. Gentleman had referred to him and his action in regard to this matter. However, when the hon. Gentleman said that this was a Party question, got up and exploited for Party ends by hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House, including himself, then he asked the hon. Member for Oldham how he reconciled that with the attitude of Liberal Members of Parliament, and all candidates for Parliamentary honours on the Liberal side in the East End of London, who had joined in this so-called spurious agitation, who had endorsed it on every platform, and had finally begged their leaders in the House of Commons to support the Bill as it stood. Let the hon. Member for Oldham thresh that out with the hon. Member for Poplar. He referred the hon. Member for Oldham to the many speeches made by the hon. Member for Poplar in which the latter had said far stronger things in regard to alien immigration than he had ever ventured to utter in this House or on the platform. He said now, as he had said on the Second Reading, that if they were to be accused of organising this agitation for Party ends, then hon. Members on the opposite side of the House were tarred with the same brush.

As to the question of the figures, he had dealt with that very fully in his speech on the Second Reading. The matter was gone into thoroughly by the Royal Commission, of which he was a member, and they came to the conclusion, after the most exhaustive inquiry, that there were really no satisfactory statistics at all on the subject, and that the census on which hon. Gentlemen opposite now relied, gave in itself no accurate indication of the amount of alien immigration and its effects on the country. The hon. Member for Oldham had very truly said that, as regarded the whole population of the country, this was a very small matter. But it was a very large matter in certain areas. The *Daily Chronicle*, a paper which represented the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite, said it was no relief to a man who was starving to tell him that the average consumption of food of the 41,000,000 inhabitants of this country was satisfactory; nor was it any relief to tell a district, where the aliens were counted by tens of thousands, that if these were spread over the whole country they would hardly be visible at all. That was precisely the point. It was no consolation to tell the people of Stepney and other districts, that this was a very insignificant matter, and that, therefore, they had no cause of complaint. He maintained that if they had, as they did have, in the East End of London an enormous stream of these people coming from Heaven knows where—if they had got a pressure of fully 80,000 of these people in the East End, then a point had been reached when some restrictions should be made to this invasion.

Mr. CHURCHILL asked if the hon. and gallant Gentleman, from his own information, could say what had been the increase of the alien population for the last ten years?

*Major EVANS GORDON said he had the evidence of his own sense, and the enormously increased and increasing area occupied by foreigners, and he maintained that the census figures, as submitted by the Registrar-General, were inaccurate, although they showed that there were 54,310 alien residents in the borough of Stepney, that all the neighbouring districts were being increasingly affected, and that these great and alarming figures did not take into consideration the children born here of foreign parents. When estimating the total effect, they must take into consideration all the people who were here now who would not have been here but for this immigration. He held that the pressure arising from this immigration was enormous. If hon. Members could see, as he had seen, street after street absolutely depopulated of their English inhabitants and replaced by aliens, then they would agree with him, and all those, irrespective of Party, acquainted with the facts, that the evil had passed all bounds, and that the time had come when they must endeavour to reduce it, and see that only those who were in a position to maintain themselves and their dependents in circumstances of decency were permitted to come here in the future.

Let him refer to the economic aspect of the question. It was said that these aliens did not compete adversely with our own people, but were a benefit both to themselves and to the native community. For the benefit of hon. Members opposite who held that view he would quote a paper which represented their opinions. The *Daily News* of June 19th, referring to a district in the West of London, said—

> "Hitherto the presence of Swedes, Austrians, Germans, and the rest, had only augmented the labour army without any serious effect on prices, but recent influxes of aliens had produced a totally opposite result. The price paid for a coat in Soho to British tailors averaged about 25s., and this price has been maintained to the satisfaction of masters and men. Now a decline is apparent, for the alien thinks that less than half that sum is sufficient pay, and in one of the largest establishments an all-round price of 5s. for every kind of coat has just been arranged. Thus the tailoring industry was being undermined by the indiscriminating undercutting of workmen who had no real knowledge of their handicraft—a process which, if it was not stopped, would bring disaster on the country."

He contended that that disclosed a state of things which it was the duty of Parliament to consider and take every measure to stop.

They were told that they were going to exclude these people on the ground of poverty alone. He denied that statement. Poverty in itself should be no bar; a man might be very poor and yet make an excellent citizen. On the other hand, a man might be very poor and very bad. They could not generalise on this question. A man might be rich and yet be a bad citizen. What they had to do was to discriminate between the good and the bad. The board set up by the Bill was a tribunal admirably calculated to discover which of the people who came here were likely to be suitable settlers and good citizens of this country. He had seen similar authorities at work at Hamburg, Bukarest, and other towns on the Continent, performing precisely this function of selecting emigrants for America and other countries. Although hon. Members opposite said that it was impossible to make this discrimination they would be surprised with what facility the work of these authorities was performed. There were vast numbers of people here who would not have been allowed to land had they been first examined. The Jewish Board of Guardians were repatriating many of these people because they found that they were absolutely unfit for anything. He held that the machinery which the Bill proposed to set up would be of real and tangible benefit to the people of this country, and to the foreign population also.

DR. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye) said that the position which they, on that side of the House, had taken up had always been the same. They were perfectly willing to consider any Bill to keep out criminals, diseased, idiotic, or otherwise helpless and hopeless people. This Bill, however, was not a practical measure from that point of view. All over the country Tory candidates said that the Liberals misrepresented all questions introduced and carried out by this Tory Government—questions of education, licensing, Chinese labour, and the like. Time would prove that the Liberals had been perfectly right on all these questions. The other day he was down at the Chichester election and there was a huge placard, eight feet by four, with a line drawn down the middle. On one side there was the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition beckoning with a very pleasant smile to a long perspective of aliens to come here; and on the other side of the line there was the right hon. Member for East Fife and an array of British working men with their tools on their shoulders. The legend was, "We have no room for these British working men; we want the men on the other side of the picture."

The Home Secretary said that they did not want to keep out aliens on social grounds, but that they were likely to compete with British workmen. Could misrepresentation go further than that. Hon. Members knew well that this Bill would not keep out a single man with health and strength, who was able to compete with British workmen, although it might keep out lunatics, diseased persons, paupers, and criminals. One would imagine from what was said on the Ministerial Benches that there was not a single alien in London except in the East End. There were aliens in the West End as well as in the East End. Take the case of a man who came up to London for a night's pleasure. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!"] Well, Bishops sometimes did that. He went to a West End hotel, where he was received by a cashier who was a Frenchman, shown to the lift by a German, and a Swiss took him to his room and carried his luggage. He ordered his dinner from a French *maitre d'hotel*, he was served by a German waiter, and the food was cooked by a French *chef*. Afterwards he went outside, got into a motor-car driven by a French *chauffeur*, and visited the Italian Opera. The overture at the Opera was played by a foreign band, and the only man who looked at all like an Englishman was he who played the triangle. He heard the whole opera sung by Italian or other foreign artistes. After the Opera his supper was served in an Italian restaurant, and, lighting a Turkish cigarette, he proceeded to walk home. On his way there he was accosted in one street by a French courtesan, in another by an Austrian *demi-mondaine*, and in a third by a German prostitute. There was not a single one of these classes which would be kept out by this Bill, with the exception perhaps of the last, which would displace British labour. He wanted to call attention to the difference between the aliens in the East End and those in the West End. The East End alien served the poor by making cheaper clothes and boots; the West End alien catered for the pleasures of the rich; therefore they heard nothing in these debates about the West End aliens. He maintained that this Bill would not effect the object it proposed to accomplish. It was a mere "shop-window Bill." Although he was entirely in favour of shutting out criminal aliens, this Bill would not effect that purpose.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said that hon. Members opposite claimed that the whole East End supported themselves and this Bill. He really did know a little about the East End, so much so that on the night of the Second Reading four supporters of the hon. and gallant Member for Stepney, who had been dining in the House, too well, but not wisely, had tried to intimidate him on the railway platform of Westminster Bridge Station, under the impression that the Bill was introduced for the express purpose of preventing overcrowding, abolishing sweating, reducing rents, and expelling the alien out of the East End. But for a belief of that kind this Bill would not be looked at in the East End of London, and to say that it would accomplish that object was not only wrong, but it made the measure a sham. If the hon. and gallant Member's speech was in the Bill, then he thought that they might all agree to it. It was a magnificent speech from their standpoint; but that the Bill would carry out the views of the hon. and gallant Member was another story. It was a Bill for the convenience of the rich, and provided another law for the inconvenience of the poor. They were led to believe that this Government was going to lessen sweating and overcrowding, and that it was going to send the people out into the country. Had they never heard of "greeners," who supplied capital to bring over aliens, 500 at a time, who shortly found their way to Colney Hatch, there to be maintained at the expense of the English ratepayers? He did not believe that this Bill was going to send one of these people back to their own country. Of course, he insisted that the sacred right of asylum for political and religious refugees should be maintained. When this Bill had been in operation two years and no alien had been turned out he did not think he would care to change places with hon. Gentlemen opposite. The nation was hungry for genuine legislation for the amelioration of the lot of the people, and to waste time on a measure like this was positively abominable. He knew quite well what were the needs of these people, and to take any notice of leading articles published in the local papers imploring them not to offer any opposition to this Bill would make them as criminal as the promoters. The whole thing was a sham, and he protested against it.

COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said that scarcely any of the speeches which had been delivered by hon. Gentlemen opposite dealt with the Amendment now before the Committee. [OPPOSITION cries of "Order" and "Withdraw."]

THE CHAIRMAN: If I thought that any of those speeches had not been in order I should have called the speakers to order.

COLONEL WILLIAMS said that he had no intention whatever in what he had said of casting any reflection upon the conduct of the Chairman. With regard to the argument put forward that this was a very small Bill the reason for that was to be found in the fact that hon. Gentlemen opposite defeated a Bill last year which was a much more drastic measure than this. He hoped the Government would soon treat the Bill as it ought to be treated, and would not allow the vexatious opposition which was being offered to it to continue.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said the Member for Durham had given utterance to the view which was generally shared by the leaders of labour on the imposture which the Committee were now discussing. The hon. and gallant Gentleman who represented Stepney said that there were no satisfactory statistics on the alien question. The statistics were sufficient to prove that between 7,000 and 10,000 per annum was the maximum number of arrivals in the United Kingdom from abroad; the census, indeed, put the number at from 6,000 to 7,000. The hon. Member for Stepney stretched figures one way and manipulated statistics the other. The only parallel to the misrepresentations of the real facts of the case put forward on this Bill was supplied by the Prison-Made Goods Bill, which was twin brother to this measure in imposture and deceit. He appealed to the hon. Member to say whether, if this Bill were carried, there would be a single alien excluded from Stepney who could settle there now. Whilst the war continued between Russia and Japan there might be 1,000 or 2,000 Russian refugees driven by political persecution to accept the hospitality of the East End of London. Were hon. Gentlemen opposite in favour of excluding political refugees from Russia and religious refugees from the East who were flying from a tyranny which we ought to approve of them escaping from. The hon. and gallant Member for Stepney talked as if this was a burning question in London as a whole, but it was only a burning question when the object of this Bill was misrepresented. The electors of the East End were told at a recent election that this Bill would remove the pauper aliens who were now depriving them of their work and their liberty, and that it would put an end to sweating. It was not true that the Bill would stop sweating. It was not true that the poverty-stricken people who found refuge here deprived us of our liberty. The people who deprived us of our liberty were the wealthy foreign aliens consorting with the sons of those who came over with William the Norman. To talk of this Bill stopping sweating was to repeat only a vulgar, low election cry pandering to the ignorant.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member is now going too much into general terms.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that the effect of this sub-section would be to raise up racial feeling such as they had not experienced for two or three centuries. Sub-section (*a*) would not keep out the *souteneur*, the foreign criminal, the men who, in the main, were found in the neighbourhood of Soho, Regent Street, and Piccadilly, and who, presuming on our hospitality, plied a dangerous calling for an immoral end. That kind of scoundrel did not come in the steerage. He stole an English countess's jewels at Berlin, or a first-class passenger's ticket at Calais or Dieppe, looked like a German count, and talked like a foreign waiter. There was no need to pass Sub-section (*a*) for such people, even if it would exclude them. Let the Bill of Lord Alverstone a few years ago be put into force for them. The hon. and gallant Member for Stepney would exclude, not such persons, but the poorer people who came prepared to work for their living. The poor German nurse girl lured to London by an advertisement was to be refused admittance, but Mrs. Bradley Martin was to be admitted. The Swedish stevedore, poor, strong, and healthy, was not to be allowed to work among his fellows if he did not hold a certificate, but the Bill would allow such an alien to come in as he who came, wealthy with other people's money, and on Thursday gave a dinner at the Savoy Hotel at a cost of £3,000, and at the rate of £125 a head. Such a man the Bill would not touch, though he did more to damage the moral fibre of rich and poor than 100 honest stevedores competing for work at the docks. The Bill was not needed. The best intellects among the Conservative Party were opposed to it. It would drive the Jewish people from one of their last sanctuaries.

THE CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member to keep nearer to the Amendment, and not make a Second Reading speech.

MR. JOHN BURNS said he wished to point out that Sub-section (*a*) would only exclude the poor Jews who sought refuge in this country, and as a labour leader he protested against this denial of the right of asylum. Let every man come who was prepared to work on fair conditions. The Factory Acts and the trade unions would ensure fair competition. Let rich Jews among the Party opposite remember that what was their lot forty years ago was the lot of others of their nation to-day. Let the Conservative Party beware of stimulating a race feud that must have effect against the rich Jews, too many of whom were, for political and mercenary motives, endeavouring to catch British votes. If the race feud came, it would be against the Jews, not of Stepney, but of the central district and the west. He appealed to the Conservative Party not to adopt a doctrine that was adverse to the best interests of the British people and foreign to their instincts as a free community. The men who were voting for this Bill employed Poles in Scottish mines, Lascars in British ships, and Chinese in South Africa.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS (Hartlepool) said it had been said that the voice of the shipowner had not been heard against this particular proposal in the Bill. He wished to say that he supported the Amendment because he felt that if Sub-section (*a*) was passed as it appeared in the Bill it would be a very serious matter for the country. He had known men of the class that would be excluded under the sub-section who had become respectable citizens and who, so far from displacing labour, had extended the area of employment and had created new industries which had been of great benefit to the country at large. There was another view which they might take of this matter. It was only a session or two ago that the House was informed that the Government had guaranteed a subsidy of £2,000,000 to the Cunard Steamship Company.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think it would be in order to discuss the Cunard Agreement now.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS said his only object in mentioning that question was to show how deeply the country was interested in maintaining the large emigration trade between this country and the United States of America, and had he been permitted to proceed with his argument he could have shown that a direct disadvantage would accrue to the country at large in regard to any interference with this immigration. He regretted that the Secretary to the Board of Trade had encouraged the statement which had been made throughout the country that these immigrants had seriously affected labour in this country. He had stated that 75,000 immigrants arrived in this country in 1904 and had remained here. He wished to state most emphatically that no such number as 75,000 immigrants remained in this country during the year 1904. He was anxious to see every good honest workman employed, but he ventured to say that this country could never have afforded the employment it gave to-day had it not been for these very foreigners who, in the first instance, displaced British labour for a short time, but who, after living in this country some time, had become respectable citizens and had revived old industries and created new ones. It was for these reasons that he desired to say how strongly he felt with regard to this sub-section. He was as anxious as any Member in the House to exclude undesirables from our shores, but in attempting to achieve that object the Committee should take care that they did not deprive the country of the benefit which these people conferred by aiding and encouraging trade and manufacture.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 158. (Division List No 227).

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn.SirH.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,Rt Hn Gerald W(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar
Campbell,J.H M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt Hn J A(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)

Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir J. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Rt. Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj. Evans(T'rH'm'ts
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords.N.W
Heaton, John Henniker
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, JF(Sheffield, Brightside
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. ArthurFred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar(Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph(Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants.,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. ChasW. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis(EdinburghW
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stewart, Sir M. J.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. SirCEH(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley,H.(Ashton und Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset
Wilson, A.Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H.(Yorks
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Byce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton,N.E.(York,NRWhitby
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.

Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas.Ramsay (Galway)
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, Wm. J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice,CaptEC(SAndrew'sB'ghs
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh Alex(Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely,Maj.JEB (Isle of Wight)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,Arthur Walters (NDorset
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.
Wilson, Fred. W.(Norfolk,Mid)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

MR. BRIGHT, in moving so to amend Sub-section (a) as to throw upon the authorities the onus of proving the inability of a person to obtain a livelihood, said the important constitutional point raised by the Amendment had been to a certain extent dealt with on an Amendment moved by the hon. Member for King's Lynn. Under the clause an alien would be refused admission to the country if he could not show that he was in possession of means of decently supporting himself; that was to say, he would be held to be guilty of poverty unless he could prove his innocence. That was an absolute inversion of the law, customs, and traditions of the country.

MR. PEEL submitted, on a point of order, that the question now raised had been already dealt with on a previous Amendment, viz., that moved by the hon. Member for King's Lynn.

THE CHAIRMAN said that, having considered the matter, he did not consider the question to be covered by the Amendment referred to. The Amendment of the hon. Member for King's Lynn dealt with the plan of procedure of the immigration board, whereas the present Amendment referred to the immigration officer.

MR. BRIGHT said he had no intention of re-debating the question further than to point out that his Amendment raised a concrete case. Although, as the Prime Minister had stated, the Bill was one of administration and did not deal with civil rights, the fact remained that an administrative Bill should not over-ride civil rights. The country was governed by precedent, and what was done to-day for aliens might be done to-morrow for our own countrymen. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out from the word 'if' to the end of the line, and insert the words 'it can be shown that he has not in his possession or is not in a.'"—(*Mr. Bright.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said they were dealing not with any question of the administration of the criminal law, but merely with an inquiry into a simple question of fact, and what the Committee had to determine was upon whom it was most convenient the burden of proof should rest. If the alien had means in his possession it would be easy for him to prove it, whereas it would be practically impossible for the immigration officer or the board to prove that he had not means. Any business man would say that the proper way of dealing with the matter was to put the burden of proof upon the alien.

MR. CHURCHILL said the argument as put forward by the Attorney-General was general in its application, but surely the right hon. Gentleman would not assert that a lunatic should be required to prove that he was a lunatic, an idiot that he was an idiot, or another person that he had been sentenced in a foreign country. It was clear that in all such cases the onus of proof must be on the officer making the charge. Why, then, was it unreasonable to apply to this particular sub-section the same principles that would have to be applied to other sub-sections? The right hon. Gentleman seemed to be extremely anxious to make the ordeal of these unfortunate people as severe as possible, and apparently he came to the House with no other object than to put the screw on the most miserable members of the human family. If there was any means by which he could make their lot harder and their burden heavier, the right hon. Gentleman did not hesitate to avail himself of it. It was obvious that whether before the immigration board or the immigration officer aliens were to have short shrift. The Prime Minister had stated that what was wanted was a rough-and-ready method of dealing with aliens, that it was a matter of administration and not of justice, and he certainly seemed to have got an Attorney-General who had thoroughly imbibed the principles of the Bill, and was ready to turn his legal talents to no better purpose than the finding of arguments to justify such a measure.

MR. DALZIEL asked what kind of instructions were to be given to the immigration officer as to the amount of money an immigrant should have in his possession before being allowed to land. Was the amount to be £10, £15, or £20? He presumed that some instructions would be given, as it was surely not to be suggested that the immigration officer should have a perfectly free hand in the matter. Had the Government conceived the possibility of an agency being established in this country for supplying the immigrants with the necessary amount of money to enable them to land? There was nothing whatever in the Bill to prevent immigrants being met by an agent and receiving from him a loan sufficient to comply with the financial condition as to landing. These were matters which ought to be dealt with at the present stage, and the Committee were entitled to know what instructions would be given to the immigration officers who would have to deal with the circumstances when they arose.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

WAR STORES COMMISSION BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported without Amendment.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) asked to be allowed, in view of the special circumstances of the case, to take the Third Reading.

Objection being taken, the Motion was postponed.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 2) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.

Clause 1:—

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) moved to report Progress. He said that hon. Members had not had notice that the Bill would be taken. A few nights ago when the Government announced that the Bill would be taken, many Members interested in the matter waited, but to-night, not at all expecting it would come on, they had gone home. He submitted that, under the circumstances, it would be very unfair to take the Committee stage without notice.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) said that when the Bill was put down the other night he was asked by hon. Gentlemen opposite not to take it that night. The measure was one for which there was urgency, and, as no object would be gained by postponement, he hoped the Committee would now proceed with the consideration of the clauses.

Mr. DALZIEL said he was sure the communication with the other side was not made through the ordinary official channels.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: A right hon. Gentleman on the Front Bench opposite leaned across the Table and said, "I suppose you will not take the Bill to-night?"

Mr. DALZIEL did not regard that as a representation; it was merely a request for information. The right hon. Gentleman would get his Bill much more easily if he gave twenty-four hours notice.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, N.) hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accede to the request of his hon. friend. Nothing would be gained by pressing the Bill to-night, and it was only reasonable that some notice should be given.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight) said there was something peculiarly inappropriate in taking this Bill without notice. This year a Consolidated Fund Bill had been brought forward in a manner contrary to all precedent, and methods had been adopted that were contrary to good finance. It was therefore essential that the Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill should not be taken without due notice.

Mr. CHURCHILL (Oldham) asked whether the Committee were not to have any Answer from the Leader of the House. A request, couched in extremely moderate language, had been made that the Bill should be postponed for a day. It was extremely inconvenient that so important a matter should be thrust upon the Committee after midnight. If the right hon. Gentleman's desire was to get the measure through by a covert manœuvre he thought it possible that the discussion might be protracted till quite a late hour in the morning. The Prime Minister really treated the House with utter contempt. The right hon. Gentleman hardly ever condescended to enter the House during the ordinary course of business except for the purpose of proposing some gagging Resolution. If no Answers were to be obtained to reasonable Questions he thought the time had come when every opportunity still remaining in the hands of a minority should be used to protest against such treatment.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) said the hon. Gentleman accused him of treating the House with contempt. That was the last sentiment that ever entered his mind. He did not say that there were no individuals in the House for whom at times he might not entertain contempt, but for the House itself, never. The hon. Gentleman accused him of not having got up to answer the Question; but, so far as he knew, no Question had been put which had not been already answered by his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was responsible for the conduct of this Bill through the House. His right hon. friend might have added, however, that when hon. Members talked in the same breath of a departure from ancient precedent and also of the importance of discussion on the Committee stage of the Consolidated Fund Bill they showed complete forgetfulness or ignorance of what was perfectly familiar to all the older Members of the House. There was no case of an important debate ever having taken place on this stage of the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 89; Noes, 136. (Division List No. 228.)

AYES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice,Capt E C(S Andrw’sBghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone,Rt.Hn Herbert John
Griffith, Ellis J.

Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy,Vincent P. (Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M‘Crae, George
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O’Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O’Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

O’Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O’Dowd, John
O’Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O’Malley, William
O’Mara, James
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, John (Galway, East
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,Arthur Walters (NDorset
Wilson, FredW(Norfolk, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Dalziel and Major Seely.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt. Hn. A. J.(Manch’r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,Rt.Hn Gerald W(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry

Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell,J.H M (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt Hn J A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alywne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)

Cust, Henry John C.
Davenport, Wm. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Fellowes, Rt. Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay,Sir R.B. (Inv’rn’ssBghs.
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,MajEvans(T’rH’mlets

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Heath, Sir Jas (Staffords,N.W.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hope, J F (Sheffield,Brightside
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H L W (Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas,Reginald J (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H (Hertford, East)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E
Welby, Sir Chas. G.E.(Notts.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question again proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

MAJOR SEELY said he desired to call the attention of the Committee to the disastrous state of His Majesty's land forces.

THE CHAIRMAN said that would be clearly out of order. It was a well-known rule of the House that such general discussions were in order on the Second and Third Reading of the Bill, but it had been laid down time after time that they were not in order in Committee.

MAJOR SEELY said that as he understood the precedent it was not in order to discuss the general condition of the land forces in Committee on the Consolidated Fund Bill under ordinary circumstances, but under exceptional circumstances, such as took place in 1884, he believed it was held that the state of uncertainty could be discussed.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had carefully studied the precedents of the last twenty years, and he was confident that that was not so.

MR. CHURCHILL understood the ruling of the Chair to be that no general subject such as would be relevant to a Second Reading debate was in order in Committee. He presumed, however, that any specific item of expenditure included in the sum dealt with by this clause to which exception was taken could be discussed on the present occasion.

THE CHAIRMAN explained that the Committee could not over-rule a decision of the House itself, and the House had already decided by the Resolution of June 6th that this particular sum should be granted out of the Consolidated Fund. It would therefore be out of order for the Committee to attempt to go behind the decision of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL said the Question put from the Chair was "that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill," and the Committee, of course, could either reject or accept that Motion. Therefore, while it was in order to reject the clause absolutely, it was apparently not in order to assign any reason for taking such a course.

THE CHAIRMAN said that so far as he could gather from the precedents that was what had always been ruled. He did not defend it; he simply adhered to the practice of the House.

Mr. DALZIEL asked whether the Chairman meant to assert that on no previous occasion had Members been allowed in Committee on the Consolidated Fund Bill to discuss the merits of the clauses or to move Amendments to them; and, further, whether he ruled that no Amendment whatever could be made to Clause 1 or any other clause in the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN said his ruling referred to a particular Amendment on Clause 1. When other clauses were reached, if any Amendments were put forward, he would rule upon them.

Mr. DALZIEL asked whether it would be in order for any Member who objected to the procedure to be adopted in raising this money to move the postponement of Clause 1 until the borrowing proposals had been discussed.

The CHAIRMAN: No, I think not.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked what, then, could be discussed. This sum of £16,000,000 included an item of £1,000 or £2,000 in connection with the Deputy Judge Advocate-General's office. Could he discuss that, or were the Members of the House of Commons to vote money simply as automata?

The CHAIRMAN said that precisely the same point was raised by the late Member for Cork in 1885, and it was then held that he could not move such an Amendment.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) asked whether the Committee was to understand that they could not discuss anything.

The CHAIRMAN said he had ruled that it was not in order to discuss the condition of the land forces. That was the only subject which had yet been suggested for discussion.

Mr. Grant Lawson.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS: Is there anything we can discuss?

The CHAIRMAN: All I can say is that for twenty years the ingenuity of many hon. Members has been directed to finding something to discuss, and they have never succeeded in finding anything.

Mr. CHURCHILL said he would not venture to comment upon the results of the ruling just given, but the Committee were in a very peculiar position. They were asked to express an opinion as to whether or not Clause 1 should stand part of the Bill, but they were not allowed to consider any of the facts relevant to such a decision. But the question was not merely whether the clause should be embodied in the Bill; there was the further point of whether they ought not to decide as to the borrowing powers to be granted to the Government before they dealt with the Supply itself. He therefore moved to postpone Clause 1 until Clause 2 had been dealt with.

The CHAIRMAN said that such a Motion would not be in order. The Question that Clause 1 stand part had already been put, and any Motion to postpone the clause should be made before that Question was proposed from the Chair.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) hoped some explanation of the clause would be given. Even if the measure were more or less of a formal character it was nevertheless necessary that the Committee should understand the Bill before they passed it.

Mr. DALZIEL said there were various reasons why this clause should not be added to the Bill. The measure had come on unexpectedly, and many Members interested therein were not present. There was also the question of whether the Government ought to be encouraged in this policy of continually bringing in Consolidated Fund Bills.

The CHAIRMAN: That subject might be in order on the Second Reading, but it is certainly out of order on Clause 1.

MR. DALZIEL said another matter for consideration was whether the Government were a fit body to be entrusted with this amount of money.

THE CHAIRMAN: The House has already decided that question by the Resolution of June 6th, upon which we cannot go back.

MR. CHURCHILL asked how, if the House had already decided that the Government were to have this money, it was competent for the Committee to over-rule the decision of the House, as it obviously was competent from the very fact that the Chairman had put the Question from the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have already stated the rule of the House; I am afraid I cannot argue the matter with the hon. Member.

MR. CHURCHILL suggested that it would be extremely convenient, and greatly to the satisfaction of all parties, if the Chairman would inaugurate his career by creating and establishing for all time a precedent that would bear some remote resemblance to common-sense.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL thought that, in view of the fact that hon. Members did not expect this discussion to come on, he was within his rights in moving the adjournment of the debate. [The Clerk at the Table made an observation to the Chairman.] He must really ask the Clerk to keep quiet. The question was for the Chairman to decide. He would submit to the decision of the proper authority, but he protested against the Chairman being the mouthpiece of any official at the Table. [Cries of "Withdraw!"] He would withdraw nothing. If the Government would not answer Questions that were put to them he was perfectly in order in moving the adjournment of the debate.

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member would, no doubt, have been within his rights in moving the adjournment of the debate were it not that the Committee had just rejected a Motion to report Progress. He could not accept the Motion.

MR. CHURCHILL asked whether they were not entitled to have from the Chancellor of the Exchequer some statement in explanation of the very important proposition which he had been responsible for commending to the House. The Committee were not allowed to criticise in detail the various public objects to be served by the Supply or to deal with any of the general subjects which appeared naturally to arise in connection with the expenditure of the money, but they were at least entitled to a statement from the responsible head of the Treasury as to the general scope of the clause. If the debate appeared to lack the element of reality, that element could be at once supplied by the right hon. Gentleman on the Treasury Bench. He would not make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman, because, naturally, the right hon. Gentleman did not pay any attention to anything he said—unless it was to do the exact opposite—but the Leader of the House had assured them that, though he had a contempt for him personally, he had no contempt for the House, and he would urge the right hon. Gentleman to live up to that newly-made resolution and apply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that almost overwhelming pressure which would induce him to make to the Committee the explanation which it desired and deserved.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

While the House was being cleared for a division,

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) drew attention to the fact that in 1888 when the question was raised the Chairman said—

> "The hon. Member can discuss whether it is expedient that the Supply which has been already granted by the House should or should not be appropriated, and the mode of appropriation, but those are the only questions he can raise. The Supply has been already voted; the amount has been already determined; the only question for this Committee is whether the Treasury shall be

compelled by law to appropriate the money in a certain way."

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand the hon. Member's point, but he has overlooked the fact that that was an Appropriation Bill.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 229.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn A. J(Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, J.HM (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn.Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn JA(Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, RtHnAilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir RB (Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords,NW
Hope, J F(Sheffield, Brightside
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick.N.S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt.HnWalter (Bristol,S)
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, Wm. Randal
Cullinan, J.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, J. (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw'sB'ghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herb. John
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, V. P. (Cavan, W.)
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lough, Thomas
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil

Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, J. (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Malley, William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S.M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj J.E.B(Isle of Wight
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters (NDorset
Wilson, Fred W (Norfolk, Mid.)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Ellis Griffith.

Question put accordingly, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 125; Noes, 79. (Division List No 230.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A J (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, JHM(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt Hn J A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T.L (Down, North)
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes,Rt HnAilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay,Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs.
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,MajEvans(T'r H'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nderry)
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords, N.W.
Hope,J. F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt Hn Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn H L W(Mile End
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice,Capt EC (SAndrw'sB'ghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)

Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P(Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lough, Thomas
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick ((Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Preistley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Toulmin, George
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (NDorset
Wilson, Fred W (Norfolk, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Trevelyan and Mr. Bright.

Clause 2:—

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.), in moving to omit the word "borrow," complained of the inconvenience of discussing technical financial points at that hour of the morning.

THE CHAIRMAN intimated that the hon. Member would not be in order unless he proposed to substitute some other word for the word "borrow."

*MR. McCRAE said he was about to show how the money could be provided if the word "borrow" was omitted.

THE CHAIRMAN said he could not accept the Amendment as it stood, as the clause would not be sense without some verb in the place of "borrow."

MR. CHURCHILL understood that his hon. friend wished to call attention to certain technical irregularities in the method of borrowing now pursued by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in order to remove the difficulty referred to by the Chairman he would move the substitution of the word "obtain" for the word "borrow." At first sight it might appear to be a mere verbal quibble, but that was not at all the case. There were many sources from which the Treasury could obtain funds without borrowing. There was, for instance, the overdue contribution of £10,000,000 from the mineowners of South Africa. That alone would have provided considerably more than one-half of the amount dealt with in this Bill. Then there were the enormous profits said to have been made out of the sale of stores through the genius and foresight of a paragon Secretary of State. Surely some appropriation from that source might very well be brought into account. Another method of raising funds was afforded by the giving of commissions in the Army to gentlemen who were unable to pass their examinations.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) asked, on a point of order, whether the hon. Member was not trifling with the time of the House.

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member did not appear to be speaking very relevantly. He was following the remarks of the hon. Gentleman very closely, and, though he could not say he was out of order, he would ask him to keep as near to the point as possible.

MR. CHURCHILL said nothing was further from him than to trifle with the Committee. They were, it was true, scrutinising the Bill with greater minuteness than they would have done had not the Chancellor of the Exchequer treated the House in an abominable and discourteous manner.

THE CHAIRMAN said those remarks, at any rate, were not relevant.

MR. CHURCHILL said that possibly he had strayed a little from the subject. He suggested that the contribution from South Africa, the profits from the sale of stores, the sums that might be realised by contributions from officers whose intellects would not enable them to pass competitive examinations, the economies which the representative of the Board of Works expected to accrue from Big Ben's being illuminated with a green instead of a yellow light, and the imposition of a charge for the admission of motor-cars into Hyde Park during certain hours, were all sources from which additional revenue might be derived. He hoped that in moving his Amendment he could count on the support of all hon. Gentlemen who disapproved of the violent, unreasonable, uncharitable, and unfair course pursued by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in thrusting the Bill unexpectedly on the House.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 19, to leave out the word 'borrow,' and insert the word 'obtain.'"—(*Mr. Churchill.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'borrow' stand part of the clause."

MR. McCRAE said that in his Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer obtained authority to borrow £10,000,000 on Exchequer bonds between April and December, not for the services of the year, but for the purpose of liquidating other Exchequer bonds falling out in December. The right hon. Gentleman had exercised that power to the extent of about £6,000,000. The Exchequer balances recently stood at £9,000,000 and in the following week at £10,000,000, and although they had been reduced for the moment by the payment of Supply and the laying aside of some £5,000,000 for the payment of dividends, the financial position was such that the right hon. Gentleman did not require to borrow to the same extent for Supply as he would have had to do in a normal year. He thought, therefore, the Committee should be very careful in giving further borrowing powers, and before any such powers were granted an undertaking ought to be given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the money would be applied only to the purposes for which it was voted. During recent years the practice of transferring money from one head to another without the consent of Parliament had grown to such an extent that it was becoming a danger to the State. While the financial affairs of the nation were conducted in so lax a manner there was no wonder that expenditure went on increasing by leaps and bounds. It was necessary that a stop should be put to the growth of the floating debt, but if this clause were passed without any undertaking from the Chancellor of the Exchequer he feared that that debt would not be reduced as it ought to be.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he should be extremely sorry if in his conduct of any measure he could fairly be charged with discourtesy to the House or to any Member. He honestly thought he was not open to the strong comments of the hon. Member for Oldham, which were couched in needlessly offensive language.

MR. CHURCHILL said his language had reference to the right hon. Gentleman's political action, not his personal demeanour.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he did not plead guilty to the charge, but it was unnecessary further to allude to it. With regard to the Amendment, he might remind the Committee that this was a common form of clause which had appeared for several years in these Bills, and such Bills had always been treated as non-controversial, or, at any rate, as not requiring any lengthened discussion. He need scarcely assure the Committee that the borrowing would be confined to what was absolutely necessary. The Treasury had to provide £10,000,000 against December; they could not raise it all at the last moment, so they were raising it in instalments during the year. As far as that money could be made available during the year advantage would be taken of it. But the provision was one that appeared in all such Bills, and the power to borrow was always used by the Chancellor of the Exchequer with as much moderation as the circumstances permitted. He hoped, therefore, that the Committee would allow the present Chancellor of the Exchequer and the present Government the discretion which had always been allowed by previous Bills of this character.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) said that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer, instead of borrowing in the early part of the year when money was dearest, had waited until the present time when money was under 2 per cent., and had raised it by Treasury bills instead of by Exchequer bonds, he would have got the money at practically half the rate that he had to pay on the last occasion. Considerable criticism had been directed against the method adopted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN asked whether the hon. Member was in order in discussing on the present Bill what in reality was a provision of the Finance Act.

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member would not be in order in discussing a previous borrowing.

MR. McCRAE submitted that the matter came within the purview of the Committee, as the money was not being devoted to the purpose for which it was borrowed, but was lying in the bank, and could be made available for the purposes of this Bill.

MR. STUART SAMUEL said he was about to suggest the manner in which the money should be obtained. He was opposed to any discretion being left to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the manner in which the money should be raised. The best form was that of Treasury bills, as money could be obtained so much more cheaply when it was to be repaid at short fixed intervals. Money could be obtained for six months at under 2 per cent., whereas under the wasteful procedure adopted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer 3 per cent. or 3¼ per cent. had had to be paid.

THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Member that the only question before the Committee was the substitution of "obtain" for "borrow."

MR. STUART SAMUEL said that whether the Treasury "borrowed" or "obtained" they must issue something, and he was arguing in favour of Treasury bills as against Exchequer bonds. The manner in which money had been borrowed recently was condemned by practically all sound financial experts. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no intention of adding to the permanent debt of the country, and that he would not, as on a previous occasion, pay off £7,000,000 by borrowing £9,000,000.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that if the hon. Member would read the clause he would see that neither of those things could be done under the power granted by the Bill.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS complained that not a single word of explanation had been given as to the purposes for which this money was required, nor had any reason been given for pressing the Bill at this sitting. The fact that it was the forty-seventh Order showed that it was not urgent.

THE CHAIRMAN: That question is not relevant to the Amendment before the Committee.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he objected just as much to the Government's "obtaining" as he did to their "borrowing" this £16,000,000. There was no urgency for the Bill, and he moved to report Progress.

THE CHAIRMAN said that under the powers vested in him he would put the Motion forthwith.

Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 73; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 231.)

AYES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer

Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, CaptEC.(SAndrw'sBghs
Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Lough, Thomas
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. W. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj.J.EB.(Isle of Wight)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters (NDorset
Wilson, Fred.W(Norfolk, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR FHE AYES—Mr. Samuel Evans and Mr. Soares.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHn.HughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, RtHn.JA.(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, RtHnAilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J.(Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq.of (L'donderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir Jas. (StaffordsNW.)
Hope, J F.(Sheffield, Brightside
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hon.Geo.T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, HnH.L.W. (Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt.Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lucas, Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J.(Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York.E.R.
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 72 (Division List No. 232.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHnHugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn.A.J.(Manch'r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn.Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J A(Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt. Hn.Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, SirR B(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J (Londonderry,South
Gordon,MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq of(L'donderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N.W.
Hope, J F (SheffieldBrightside)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hon. Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H.L W(Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants.,Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,Frederick,N S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Col. F. (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn.Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell,James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw'sBghs)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, JKeir (MerthyrTydvil)
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj.J E B(Isle of Wight)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal

Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (N Dorset
Wilson, Fred W (Norfolk, Mid.)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. O'Mara and Mr. MacVeagh.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'borrow' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 117; Noes, 73 (Division List No. 233.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A J (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campell, J. H M (Dublin Univ.)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J A (Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt Hn Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R B (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J (Londonderry, South
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'm'ts
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords. N.W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W (Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, Capt. E C (S Andrw's Bghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herb. John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Lough, Thomas
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)

O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, MajJEB(IsleofWight)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters(NDorset
Wilson, Fred.W (Norfolk, Mid.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Churchill and Mr. Harcourt.

MR. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER claimed to move, "That the Question 'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

While the House was being cleared.

MR. CHURCHILL said, we have been discussing the first sub-section of this clause only. Do I understand that you have actually accepted the closure on the other two sub-sections which have not even been approached by the Committee.

MAJOR SEELY said that the Chairman had at an earlier period called on him to move an Amendment. That being so, was it not unusual to accept the closure?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member's memory is a little defective. What I said was that I considered the Amendment to be moved in a spirit of sarcasm or mockery.

MAJOR SEELY said that possibly that was what the Chairman intended to have said, but in point of fact he called his name and he stood up to move the Amendment.

MR. LOUGH asked whether there was any necessity to move the closure a second time. Was not one closure Motion sufficient?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, if the hon. Member will read the rule.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 116, Noes, 73. (Division List No. 234)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn. A. J.(Manch'r.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHn.GeraldW(Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt.HnJA(Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt.HnAilwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J.(Londonderry,South
Gordon, MajEvans(TrH'mlets)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'donderry)
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords.N.W
Hope, J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.)
Lucas, Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col.Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, Capt E C. (S Andrw's B'ghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Lough, Thomas
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, R.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wills, Arthur Walters (N Dorset
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Churchill and Major Seely.

Question put accordingly, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 116; Noes, 71. (Division List No. 235.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt, C. B (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, J H M (Dublin Univ.)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North
Davenport, W. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt Hn Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R B (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J (Londonderry, South
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords N.W.
Hope, J F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)

Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt.Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, RtHn Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw'sB'ghs
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, RtHnHerbert John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, JKeir (MerthyrTydvil)
Helme, Norval Walton
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J.A. (Saffron Walden
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, MajJ.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(N.Dorset
Wilson, Fred W(Norfolk, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Russell Rea and Mr. Theodore Taylor.

Clause 3:—

Question proposed, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

MR. SOARES said he desired to move the substitution of the word "shall" for the word "may."

THE CHAIRMAN: The form of words in the clause is one which has been put into nearly every Act of Parliament and is consecrated by long usage; I cannot allow the Amendment.

MR. CHURCHILL said he failed to understand why the measure was brought before the Committee at all if they were not to be allowed to move any Amendments whatever. He submitted that the drafting of the Bill was a matter within the competence of the House.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) pointed out that only on Friday last several hon. Members objected to the Trustee Bill on the ground that "may" had been inserted instead of "shall," and it was only when the Government agreed to alter the word that the objections were withdrawn.

THE CHAIRMAN said he must not be taken as ruling that the substitution of "shall" for "may" would never be in order. All he said was that he could not accept it on the present occasion.

MR. CHURCHILL said that, in view of the fact that the Committee had now taken five divisions on end, and that under the last ruling not even a drafting Amendment could be moved, he would ask leave to move to report Progress.

THE CHAIRMAN said he could not accept the Motion.

MR. CHURCHILL asked to be allowed to state his reasons for the Motion. Unless the proceedings were to degenerate into a test of physical strength merely, he suggested that a few words of argument might occasionally be allowed to interrupt the procession through the lobbies.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Question is that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

MR. CHURCHILL: Then you will not accept my Motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is so.

MR. CHURCHILL said it was not for him to comment upon the refusal of the Chair, but he deeply regretted the decision. He could not help thinking that the Opposition had been treated in a manner that would be used against hon. Members opposite at no distant date. Members were allowed to criticise the wording of the clause, but they were not allowed to move Amendments to give effect to their criticisms. He could not move to substitute "shall" for "may," though he might show that "shall" would be much more appropriate than "may." "Shall" was of an imperative nature, and was therefore much more in harmony with the manner in which the Bill had been forced through Committee. Then, too, the word "intituled" was more usual than the word "cited." An Act must be intituled something before it could be cited. On this point he would appeal to the Prime Minister as a literary man——

THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I think the hon. Member is trifling with the Committee.

MR. CHURCHILL said nothing was farther from his desire. He asked where was the Chancellor of the Exchequer who, having imposed upon the House the odious task of sitting up, had now gone off somewhere to bed. A more discreditable example had never been set to a Party. He regretted that the Prime Minister, who had almost as much authority over the Chancellor of the Exchequer as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, had not thought it proper to retain the services of his chief financial adviser in the conduct of this Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 115; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 236.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHnHugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J.(Manch'r
Balfour, Capt C.B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn GeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, J.H.M. (DublinUniv
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Chamberlain, Rt HnJA(Worc.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T.L. (Down, North)
Davenport, Wm. Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt HnAilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, SirRB(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. EdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J.(Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir Jas. (StaffordsNW.
Hope, JF (Sheffield,Brightside)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt.Hn Arthur Fred
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col.W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn. H L W (Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, RtHn Walter(Bristol, S.)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, ReginaldJ(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
M‘Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H (Hertford, East)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whitmore, Chas. Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J;
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw'sB'ghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Farrell, James Patrick
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, JKeir (Merthyr Tydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P (Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw (Fermanagh, N.)
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.

Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj J.E.B. (IsleofWight
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J.H. Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(N Dorset
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. M'Crae and Mr. Higham.

Question put accordingly, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 115; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 237.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn. A J(Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,Rt Hn GeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, SirFrederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell,JHM(Dublin Univ.)
Carson, Rt.Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, RtHnJA(Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H.A.E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt. Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. EdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj.Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords.NW
Hope, J F (Sheffield,Brightside
Hozier, Hn. James HenryCecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col W
Kerr, John
Keswick William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth
Lawson, Hn.H L W (Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M
Strutt, Hn. Chas. Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, Capt E C(SAndrw'sBghs
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone,Rt.Hn HerbertJohn
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis

Hardie, J Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy,Vincent P (Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw.(Fermanagh, N
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J, A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Seely, Maj J E B(Isle of Wight)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Wills.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Question is that I report this Bill without Amendment to the House.

Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report the Bill, without Amendment, to the House."

MAJOR SEELY said he had given notice to move a new clause, and perhaps, if there was any question as to whether it was in order, he might be permitted to explain its purpose.

THE CHAIRMAN said he did not think he could allow the hon. Member to make a speech on a new clause which he could not put to the House. He ruled the clause out of order, because he considered it a frivolous Amendment. It was a definition of the word "person," and stated "no one shall be deemed to be a person within the meaning of this Act unless he be a British subject." That struck him as being put in a spirit of irony. Moreover, it was clearly not a new clause, but ought to come as an addendum to Clause 2.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS, on a point of order, referred to the procedure laid down by the rules of the House with reference to new clauses.

THE CHAIRMAN said that that procedure referred to Amendments that were in order, but he, having used his judgment to the best of his ability, had ruled the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight to be out of order.

MR. CHURCHILL understood the ruling of the Chair to refer only to the particular clause in question, and not in any way to impugn the right of Members to move new clauses to Consolidated Fund Bills.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the clauses are in order, of course they may be moved.

MR. CHURCHILL: I mean that your ruling is of a particular and not of a general character.

THE CHAIRMAN: My ruling is directed to the Question before me and nothing else. It is a particular and not a general ruling.

MAJOR SEELY asked on what grounds a Motion to make the word "person" apply to British subjects could be ruled out of order as frivolous.

THE CHAIRMAN said he held it to be moved in a spirit of mockery, but he had also said that even if that were not so it ought to come as an Amendment to Clause 2.

Mr. CALDWELL pointed out that a definition appropriately came as a new clause, and in any case the matter could not have been dealt with on Clause 2 because that clause was closured.

The CHAIRMAN: I will put the Question to the House. There must be an end to points of order at some time. The Question is that I report this Bill without Amendment to the House.

Mr. CHURCHILL, on a point of order, said the Chairman had now given two reasons for ruling the Amendment out of order, viz., that it was frivolous, and that it was not moved in the proper place. He submitted that those two reasons could not be allowed to go together.

The CHAIRMAN: Points of order must always be raised before the Question is put the second time.

Mr. CHURCHILL submitted, with great respect, that he did raise the point before the Question was put a second time.

The CHAIRMAN: Then I did not hear it.

Mr. CHURCHILL: That was because of the uproar on the other side.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry if there has been any misapprehension. I am only too glad to answer points of order. I am the servant of the Committee, but questions of order have never been raised after the Question has been put the second time.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Then do I understand that you will not rule on my point of order?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not like to set the precedent of allowing points of order to be raised after the Question has been put the second time.

Mr. SOARES remarked that on the night when hon. Members from Ireland had difficulties with the Speaker at least three points of order were raised after the Question had been put a second time.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): Might I suggest that you should send for the police?

The CHAIRMAN: Will hon. Members kindly proceed to the lobbies?

Question put,

The Committee divided: Ayes, 113; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 238.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn HughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward

Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, JHM(Dublin Univ.)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A.(Worc
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, RtHnAilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, SirRB(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. EdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gray, Ernest (WestHam)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords. N.W
Hope, JF (Sheffield, Brightside
Hozier, Hon. JamesHenryCecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col W
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn. H. L.W(Mile End
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt.Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lucas, Col Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H
Marks, Harry Hananel
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice,Capt EC(SAndrw'sB'ghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, RtHnHerbert John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, VincentP (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj. JEB(Isle of Wight)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Barran and Mr. Wills.

Bill to be read the third time this day.

And, it being after One of the clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Three o'clock a.m.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 4th July, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—Rathmines and Rathgar Extension and Improvement.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Rathmines and Rathgar Extension and Improvement Bill. Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Monday next.

Whitechapel and Bow Railway Bill; Woolwich Borough Council Bill; Skegness Water Bill; Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [H.L.]; Bootle Corporation Bill; Andover Lighting and Power Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Great Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Wemyss Dock Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Hitchin and District Gas Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Barrymore Estate Bill [H.L.]; Hythe Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.]; University College, London (Transfer) Bill [H.L.]; Weaver Navigation Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Seaham Gas Bill; Swansea Corporation Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; North British Railway (General Powers) Bill; Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill; Rhondda Urban District Council Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; North-Eastern Railway Bill; North-Eastern Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill; Bolton Corporation Bill; Wemyss Dock Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.),

D. Northumberland (chairman),
E. Fitzwilliam,
E. Westmeath,
E. Craven,
L. Clinton;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]. House in Committee according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3428. Netherlands (Curacoa);

No. 3429. Mexico (Mexico).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

Read 2^a (according to order). Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

*Earl SPENCER: My Lords, I rise to ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War a Question of which I have given him private notice relating to the Volunteer force. We have for a long time been anxious to know what His Majesty's Government were going to propose with regard to the Volunteers. I admit at once that the information upon which I base my Question is taken from a newspaper this morning, but it seemed to bear evidence of authenticity, and, therefore, I thought it desirable, as this is a very important matter, that it should be cleared up at once. I, therefore, beg to ask the noble Earl whether a statement in the *Daily Chronicle* of July 4th is correct to the effect that, in future, in the Volunteer force a severe test of physical fitness is to be required; that an age limit of forty-five is fixed; that the commanding officer of each battalion is asked whether he thinks his command is in such a state as to justify disbandment or amalgamation; also whether instructions have recently been issued to officers commanding Volunteer battalions to the above effect; and, if any such instructions have been issued, whether the noble Earl will present them to the House.

*The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (The Earl of Donoughmore): My Lords, I am very glad that the noble Earl should have taken such early action in putting this Question, because it gives me an opportunity of explaining to your Lordships and to the public what is obviously a very serious misconception. The foundation, I think, for this report is a certain action which we have taken, and which is as follows. We have asked for information from general officers commanding districts as to how many Volunteers in their commands are fit for active service in the field. The conditions are defined in the circular which has been sent out. I do not think it will be necessary for me to read those conditions, because, in answer to a later part of the Question, I am prepared to place this letter on the Table; but we have asked, firstly, how many Volunteers in the commands are physically fit for active service in the field; and, secondly, how many of those are first-class shots. We believe that is information which the Volunteers will gladly provide us with. It is obviously information which we should have to ask for the minute war broke out, and we think it only right to try and get that information for ourselves in peace time, so that we may have it by us. It is obviously a very different thing from what the report in the paper states, that all units not fit for active service have been ordered to be eliminated from Volunteer battalions, that the test of physical fitness is to be equivalent to that possessed by men of nineteen, and that a new age limit of forty-five has been fixed. With regard to the age limit, I may mention that it is stated in this letter as one of the conditions of fitness for active service in the field, that a man should be below the age of forty-five, but that is a very different thing from imposing a limit of forty-five on all Volunteers throughout the country.

The noble Lord then asks whether the commanding officer of each battalion has to state whether he finds his command in such a state as to justify disbandment or amalgamation, and whether instructions have recently been issued to officers commanding Volunteer battalions to that effect. The Answer is that that question is asked in this letter to general officers commanding. It is a question we are obviously quite right in asking. The amalgamation of weak units in the Militia and Volunteer forces is not new. It very often leads to efficiency and economy, and we have simply asked for information on the point. We have not, as suggested in the report, taken action. The noble Earl also asks whether we can present any Papers to the House. This document is, of course, a confidential one—instructions issued in the ordinary course of business by the War Office—and one such as we issue very frequently in the administration of the Army. I am sure the noble Earl will agree with me that it may very often be undesirable that a document issued confidentially should be laid on the Table of the House. I am not prepared to admit that there is any obligation on us to lay documents when we think it inexpedient to do so, but I am prepared on this occasion to meet the noble Earl's wishes, and I will see that the letter is circulated in the ordinary course.

*EARL SPENCER: I beg to thank the noble Earl for the Answer he has given me, and for consenting on this occasion to lay this document on the Table. It is satisfactory to know that the asking of these questions on the part of the War Office is not precursory to immediate action in the direction indicated. That is what the public were led to understand from the report in the newspaper to which I have referred. It would have been a very serious matter, and I need hardly say that if that had been the intention of His Majesty's Government it would have required strong action on the part of those who are interested in the Auxiliary Forces of the country. I do not wish to say any more at the present moment, but shall wait to see the Paper which the noble Earl has promised to present.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: I should like to ask, with regard to the question of physical fitness, whether the general officers commanding are to give their own opinion, or whether there is to be a medical examination.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: I should say both. We have asked the officers for their opinion and we have asked them to obtain from the medical officers of the corps their opinion as well.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL [H.L.].

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3a."—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

On Question, Bill read 3a.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE) explained that the Amendments which he had to move were placed on the Paper at the suggestion of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland. The first Amendment enabled the council of the society to nominate one of their body in the event of the president not being able to attend; and the second Amendment made a modification which he thought was important.

Amendments moved—

"In page 2, to leave out Clause 5, and insert the following clauses:—'In Section twelve of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) (No. 2) Act, 1897, the words "or such other member of the council of the society to be nominated for the purpose by the council" shall be inserted after the word "Ireland." 'In the Schedule to the Statute Law Revision Act, 1893, the words: "In Section seventy-two the words 'body or' shall be substituted for the following words relating to the Irish Bankrupt and Insolvent Act, 1857, namely, 'In Sections seventy-two to seventy-five the words 'body or' and the said Act of 1893 shall be read and construed as if the words so substituted had originally been enacted therein.'"—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to.

Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

ADVERTISEMENTS REGULATION BILL [H.L.].

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3a."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 3a.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH moved an Amendment to Sub-section 2 of Clause 2. This sub-section provided that any local authority might make by-laws for regulating, restricting, or preventing the exhibition of advertisements in such places and in such manner, or by such means, as to affect injuriously the amenities of a health or pleasure resort, public park, promenade, or to disfigure the natural beauty of a landscape. He moved to leave out the words, "health or pleasure resort," and to insert, before the word "promenade," the word "pleasure." The object of the Amendment was to limit the scope of the measure, and it had been put down in the hope of conciliating some opposition to the Bill, which was considered too drastic as it stood. Those promoting the Bill had agreed to this Amendment as a concession, with a view of obviating opposition in the House of Commons. The promoters, however, desired to make themselves secure from any charge of breach of faith by stating now that if that hope was falsified they would, in a subsequent session, reintroduce the Bill in its present form.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, page 1, line 14, to leave out the words 'health or pleasure resort,' and after the word 'park' to insert the word 'pleasure.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD HERRIES asked why the word "pleasure" was proposed to be inserted before "promenade."

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH replied that it was part of the bargain that had been made. He did not attach importance to it himself, and he was quite sure that the promoters of the Amendment did not attach so much importance to it as they did to the omission of the other words proposed to be left out; and if the noble Lord had any strong objection to the insertion of the word "pleasure" he would not press it. But on the whole he thought it would be better to let the Amendment pass as it stood on the Paper in the hope that it would conciliate opposition in the other House.

LORD HERRIES: What sort of a promenade is a pleasure promenade?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I can only answer that I suppose it is a promenade used for pleasure. That question must be one of fact to be decided as it arises.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Privilege Amendment agreed to.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, in moving that the Bill do now pass, explained that the proviso to Clause 2 was to the effect that a local authority, in making by-laws under the section, should provide for the exemption from the operation of such by-laws of any hoardings and similar structures in use for advertising purposes, and of any advertisements exhibited at the time of the making of the by-laws, for such period, not being less than twelve months, as they might think fit. For the sake of peace they would have been quite willing to increase that period, but just as they were agreeing to that with one set of opponents another set stated that they would prefer no period at all. He was afraid that this matter, if it was to be settled, must be a matter of negotiation in another place; and, therefore, he refrained from suggesting to the House the making of any Amendment at the present time.

Moved, "That the Bill do now pass."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

THE MILITIA.

*THE DUKE OF BEDFORD rose "To call attention to the present condition of the Militia; and to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War if, in view of the large number of officers and men wanting to complete the establishment, His Majesty's Government will consider the advisability of invoking the assistance and using the agency of lords-lieutenant in the recruitment of men and the selection of persons suitable for recommendation to the Secretary of State for War for commissions as officers in the Militia." He said: My Lords, In calling attention to the present state of the Militia, I cannot do better than quote from the summary of the speech of the Secretary of State for War with regard to the reorganisation of the Army, presented to Parliament on July 14th last. That summary contained the statement that—

"During the last two years the falling off in the strength of the Militia has been as follows: Numbers wanting to complete establishment, January 1st, 1902, 21,148; January 1st, 1903, 20,596; January 1st, 1904, 32,601. There is no sign that the fall will be arrested. Moreover, the Militia is undoubtedly deficient in quality as well as in quantity, and every year the rate of decay is likely to be accelerated, for a battalion which once loses prestige goes rapidly down hill."

The deficiency at present is 32,168 men, but what is still more serious and significant is the rapid decline in the number of officers. In 1903 there was a deficiency of 667, but at present there is a deficiency of 987 officers.

Not many weeks ago a Bill passed your Lordships' House entitled the Militiamen's Service Bill. The object of the Bill is to enlist the Militia under the obligation for foreign service on embodiment, thereby carrying out the military policy expounded by the Committee of National Defence. That policy is based on the opinion of all naval authorities that the invasion of this country is an impossibility. Accepting the correctness of this opinion then it is unnecessary and wasteful to maintain a large and expensive force, ear-marked for service at home, where no active service can occur, whereas it is most necessary to maintain as large a force as possible enlisted for service abroad, where campaigns of great magnitude and many years duration are by no means so improbable as we could wish.

I would remind your Lordships that in the Report of the Royal Commission on the South African War the opinion is expressed, that—

> "No military system would be satisfactory which does not contain powers of expansion outside the limit of the Regular Forces of the nation."

His Majesty's Government, by seeking to make the Militia, which is a force composed of men who are not professional soldiers, liable for foreign service, are taking the first step towards extending the forces of the nation outside the limits of the Regular Army for the defence of the Empire abroad. I may add that I have only heard one feeling expressed among all ranks in the Militia as regards this Bill, that of anxiety to see it passed through the necessary stages and become law.

We see, then, in the Militiamen's Service Bill an attempt made to carry out not only the principles of the military policy laid down by the Committee of National Defence, but also the recommendations made by the Commission appointed to inquire into the war in South Africa. But as things stand this attempt is foredoomed to failure. Both officers and men are a vanishing quantity, and it is idle to expect that a national citizen Army can be recruited by the Departmental methods and purely military machinery of the War Office. The military authorities can train a national force. They cannot call it into existence. A national citizen Army can only be recruited by the nation. The principle of national recruiting is that the civilian authorities in the State accept the responsibility of finding officers and men and of handing them over to the military authorities to train. The Militia has been deprived of that assistance to which it was formerly entitled from civilian authorities in the matter of recruiting. The result is the deplorable and increasing failure to obtain officers and men, described by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War last year.

The present recruiting staff for a Militia battalion consists of the adjutant, the sergeant-major, and eight or ten sergeants, members of the Militia Permanent Staff. The adjutant is an officer, usually a young officer belonging to the Line. A Militia adjutancy is not a well-paid appointment, not nearly so well-paid as a Line adjutancy, although, of course, the work of recruiting is of paramount importance. The appointment is for a term of three years, too short a period to allow of any officer acquiring anything beyond a most elementary knowledge of his recruiting duties and of his district. At the end of three years he is recalled to the Line, and another officer is appointed, to be in turn removed before he has time to become efficient. Recruiting sergeants, however worthy in themselves, and many are most excellent men, have inherited traditions which make them objects of dislike and distrust to the parents and friends of those whom they seek to enlist in the Militia. For the working classes the recruiting staff of the Militia means nothing beyond the barracks. From the barracks they come, just a lot of soldier men, to the barracks they return, and in the barracks those whom they take back with them find their perdition. Such is the unfortunate misconception which it is our duty and interest to remove. No recruiting agency could well be more feeble. None could well be more unpopular. It is ineffective because it is unsupported by any local influence, and appeals to none of the higher feelings of the people. It is disliked because it has inherited all the unpopular traditions which cling to recruiting for the Line. Cannot this futile and absurd recruiting agency be transformed into one of the most congenial and influential agencies in the country, and canont the unpopular traditions be removed ?

In order to secure influence and that prestige, the loss of which is alluded to by the Secretary of State for War, I should place my hand at once on the representative of the Sovereign in the county, namely, the lord-lieutenant. As your Lordships are aware, Militia regiments used to be entirely under the control of the lords-lieutenant of counties. At this very moment all lords-lieutenant and deputy-lieutenants owe their existence to the old Militia laws. It is the lord-lieutenant who ought once again to become the authority charged with all recruiting operations for his county Militia. For reasons which I need not now go into, lord-lieutenants and deputy-lieutenants were so completely severed from all duties connected with the Militia that they do not at present feel in a position to concern themselves actively with that force.

When we come to the officer commanding the Militia regiment, it certainly does seem a little unreasonable of the War Office not to allow that officer to have control over the recruiting of his own regiment. But such is the case. He has no right at present to conduct recruiting work for his own regiment. The adjutant of the Militia battalion is for all recruiting purposes under the command of the Line field officer at the depôt. This officer will in future be a major. He is of necessity without any shred of influence amongst the civilian population. The Militia commanding officer does not command his own recruits when assembled for their preliminary drill. His position during the non-training period is altogether absurd and impossible. The officer commanding the Militia regiment must be the link between the civilian authorities and the military recruiting staff. It would be his duty to inform the lord-lieutenant of the progress of recruiting, and to confer with him about all matters connected with that work. For instance, if he should report that in certain districts recruiting is making no progress and is very unpopular then the lord-lieutenant might direct the deputy-lieutenants connected with the neighbourhood to endeavour, by means of interviews and meetings, to explain to the people of the locality the value of the Empire and the necessity for maintaining a national Army for its defence.

At present in many districts where recruiting is unpopular, doors are slammed in the face of Militia recruiting sergeants, and they, for the sake of avoiding disturbance and unpleasantness, return to that district no more. The district is closed for recruiting. This is a frequent occurrence before which the military element is helpless. It is a case which can only be met by acquiring influence through educational processes carried out by the civilian and not by the military authorities. A visit from the lord-lieutenant to the Militia recruits when assembled for their preliminary drill would be very advantageous. I do not suggest that the lord-lieutenant should appear in a military capacity, but that he should come giving his personal sanction and direct encouragement to the youthful patriotism of his county. I should myself like to see the preliminary drill of Militia recruits extended during the winter to the full legal limit, that is, six months. Employment is, we know, scarce in the winter, and the more young men and lads there are in barracks the more employment will there be for the older and married men at home. Six months of physical drill, together with sound discipline and healthy surroundings, would be of great moral and physical advantage to these lads in after life.

There is no need to keep the recruits continuously away from their homes.

On the contrary, they should be encouraged to go and even be sent home from Saturday noon to Monday morning, and they should be sent home for a week both at Christmas and Easter. The object is that they should be constantly returning to their homes well-dressed and smart, with a few shillings in their pockets, and contented with their new life in barracks. I fear, however, that the barracks at a depôt are but a gloomy place, and of a winter's evening. when it is dark at four o'clock, cheerless, depressing, and comfortless in the extreme. Here is an opportunity for the lord-lieutenant, the deputy-lieutenants, and the county generally to come forward and show their appreciation of the recruits of their county regiment by organising entertainments to pass away the long winter evenings. The cost of military training and equipment should be provided by the State and not supplemented by the money of civilians. But a cheerful recreation room for the barracks during the winter evenings, or a cricket ground at the county camp in summer are legitimate gifts by the county to its regiment, and would be matters within the discretion of the lord-lieutenant.

I now come to the question of the supply of officers for the Militia, and that, with a deficiency of 987, is a serious problem. In this matter the lord-lieutenant and the deputy-lieutenants could be of the greatest assistance. At present the only person interested in finding officers for the Militia is the officer commanding the regiment. I find that the number of deputy-lieutenants in the United Kingdom in December, 1904, was 3,700. My proposal is that it should be the duty of deputy-lieutenants to submit the names of persons eligible for the rank of subaltern in the Militia to their lord-lieutenant. The lords-lieutenant, assisted by the commanding officers of Militia regiments, would then select names for submission to the Secretary of State for War. Thus if 3,700 deputy-lieutenants were called upon to supply 1,000 officers, every three deputy-lieutenants would have between them to find one candidate. Surely a group of three deputy-lieutenants could, from among their combined families, friends, relations, and connections, raise one desirable recruit officer for the Militia. Society should co-operate and should close its doors to the idle man of leisure who does nothing for his country. The man who is deaf to patriotism should be dead to Society.

The lord-lieutenant should have the necessary authority to summon together all his deputy-lieutenants for the purpose of filling vacancies in the subaltern ranks of the Militia—I say "summon" advisedly, because it must be a command of the superior officer to attend on the business of the State. When the business in hand is the defence and the maintenance of the Empire there must be a command. There must be no question of attending if agreeable, or preferring a social engagement because it is infinitely of more interest than any meeting to discuss military service. The clerk of the lieutenancy would keep a list of names recommended by each deputy-lieutenant, and in the event of a deputy-lieutenant failing for five consecutive years to recommend a possible candidate for a commission, never showing any interest in the Militia, and never helping in the recruitment of men, the lord-lieutenant should recommend the Secretary of State for War to remove such deputy-lieutenant from the list. A deputy-lieutenant is by his qualification a man of influence in his county. If he neglects to use that influence I submit to your Lordships that he should vacate his office to make way for someone better qualified to discharge his duty to his country. My Lords, without some such penalty there will be no real work, and it is real work which we require. The keynote to any form of national recruiting must be that it is the business of the nation, and, as such, takes precedence of all other duties, pleasures, and engagements.

I apprehend that the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War will take exception to my proposals on the score that national recruiting for the Militia will injure recruiting for the Regular Army. I do not admit that such would be the case. I do not for a moment suggest raising the pay of the Militia. That would certainly upset the balance all round. The Militiaman is a man who seeks to soldier by the month except in time of war. He does not look upon himself, neither does he wish others to look upon him, as a professional soldier. The Regular soldier soldiers all the year round and regards soldiering as his profession. Some men who enlist into the Regular Army mean to make soldiering their profession. These men will not join the Militia. Some do not mean to stick to soldiering, but they fancy going abroad for a time and the shifting scenes of a soldier's life. They will not go to the Militia. Some men enlist because they have got into scrapes and difficulties and wish to change their locality. His county Militia is the very last place to which a man who wishes to lose his identity will go. Some enlist because they are "deadbeats" and cannot get on in any civilian profession. They will not go to the Militia, because they would have to remain civilians for the greater part of the year, which is exactly what they cannot afford to do. I, therefore, ask the noble Earl if he is aware of any large class of men who would be attracted to the Militia to the detriment of the Regular Army, owing to the influence of lords-lieutenant, deputy-lieutenants, and a system of national recruiting.

It is, I believe, admitted that no matter how excellent our Regular Army may be, it is numerically so insignificant that it cannot of itself bring a lengthy campaign against a military Power to a successful issue. You cannot hope to make any impression on a nation in arms, and trained as a nation to arms, and numbering its trained forces by the million, by means of a few hundred thousand Regular soldiers. If follows, therefore, that in any great struggle it will be by our second and not by our first line that we shall stand or fall. The importance, then, of the second line cannot be over-estimated. I do not suggest for a moment sacrificing the first line in any way to the second. I see no difficulty in holding the balance equally between them. The Militia must look to the Line for its permanent staff, therefore the Militia must give recruits to the Line. At present a Militiaman enlists for six years. I suggest that at the end of three years a Militiaman raised by national means of recruiting should be allowed to transfer to the Line. If national recruiting increases, as I am sure it cannot fail to do, both the quality and the quantity of the Militia, there will be a far larger body and a far better body of men from whom transfers to the Line are likely. The man who had served three years in the Militia would not be a recruit. On the contrary, he would be ready for foreign service the moment he transferred to the Line. Thus I believe that national recruiting for the Militia would be a benefit and not a detriment to the Line.

Continental nations, my Lords, have learnt cruel lessons from the march of conquering armies through their native lands. From this calamity we have been saved, not by our superior patriotism but by our insular position. Thus we have never realised, as our Continental neighbours have realised, in the bitter school of humiliation and subjection, that military training and organisation are the first and foremost duty of every citizen. Insular we are at home but Continental we have become abroad. Hence the necessity for the principal civilian authorities to come forward and take the lead in recruiting a national citizen Army for the defence of the Empire all the world over. At present we have no such force. In whatever light His Majesty's Government may view my suggestions, I am confident that they will agree with me on one point, namely, that a patriotic offer is worth all the sterile criticism in the world. I beg to ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War the Question standing in my name.

*THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: My Lords, I rise to support the general proposition which has been laid down by the noble Duke, and especially that part of it which more closely concerns the shortage of officers in the Militia service. I do so because it appears to me to be most necessary that some steps should be taken to counteract that shortage. One cannot deny for a moment that the present inducements to young men to join the Militia service as officers have proved conspicuous failures. I am sorry to say that at this moment military service in this country is singularly unpopular among all classes. There is distinct disinclination throughout the country to join the service. Many reasons might be given for this unpopularity. The principal ones are, first, that there is a feeling of insecurity of tenure, that men do not know from day to day how they will be dealt with; and, secondly, that—as has been very well put forward in an article which appeared in a distinguished magazine within the last few months by a Member of your Lordships' House, who is himself a gallant soldier—while young officers are expected to go through a great deal more training and to be more highly educated in military science, no further financial inducements have been offered to them to make the Army their profession for life. I do not for a moment say that what is required of officers now is not in every way desirable, but you cannot expect young men to devote the best years of their lives to an arduous and dangerous profession unless they are adequately remunerated. That may not be a very lofty view, but it has undoubtedly been the reason why many young men have not joined the service.

I hope the proposition of the noble Duke that lords-lieutenant should be allowed to go back practically to the position they occupied before 1882 in respect to the procuring of officers for the Militia will receive favourable consideration from the noble Earl the Under Secretary. It may be said that one of the powers enjoyed before 1882 is, to a certain extent, still preserved to the lord-lieutenant, who has the right of nomination to the lowest rank of Militia officer if he sends in the notice within thirty days of the vacancy being announced. But a large number of lords-lieutenant have waived that power in view of the general tenor of the Act of 1882. I am sure that lords-lieutenant have only one wish—namely, to do all they can to help the Militia, which, as a matter of fact, they are really compelled to do. If the lords-lieutenant are brought once again more actively into touch with the Militia regiments of their counties they will undoubtedly be able to afford much help to the officers commanding. There are at this moment certain Militia regiments which are commanded, and effectively commanded, by officers who, through one cause or another, live outside the county in which their regiments are situated. That is to say, from the end of one Militia training to the beginning of the next the colonel commanding the regiment has practically no *status* in the county. That is an unfortunate occurrence, which cannot sometimes be avoided through there being no one in the county capable of commanding the Militia regiment; but if that officer were in close correspondence with the lord-lieutenant, and the latter was able to deal more effectively with recommendations, he would greatly aid the colonel. I beg most cordially to support the suggestion of the noble Duke, more especially with regard to the recruiting of officers.

*LORD BLYTHSWOOD: My Lords, we are greatly indebted to the noble Duke for bringing this matter before the House, and, as an old Militia officer who now occupies the position of lord-lieutenant of his county, I beg to thank him for doing so. I desire at the same time to say that I cordially support the views which he has expressed. Thirty years ago, when I first joined my county Militia, the counties were in quite a different condition. The old county families are gradually disappearing, and those from whom we got recruits in those days are disappearing also. The Militia then was looked upon by the Volunteers as a different class. All this is changing. County government has completely changed. There are different authorities, and the municipal bodies, both in the counties and boroughs, are of greater importance than they ever were before; and I feel quite sure that unless you are able to enlist their co-operation in getting recruits, both for the Volunteers and the Militia, you will find it utterly impossible to fill the ranks of the Reserve Forces. On the other hand, if you enlist their goodwill I believe you will have no difficulty in filling those ranks. Some years ago I prepared papers on that very subject for circulation among a few friends. I expressed the wish that the counties should be the recruiting areas, that they should be appraised as to the number of officers of Militia that they should be able to support, and that every quarter the numbers that the county was really giving should be published throughout the county. If that were done I think you would set up a rivalry between the different counties and a great deal of the difficulty in getting recruits would be overcome. Of the men that you get to join the Reserve Forces there are always a certain number who will go into the Army. Increase your Reserve Forces and you will make it easier to get men for the Regular Army. I trust that His Majesty's Government will see their way to broaden the basis and enlist the sympathies of all the authorities in the county in carrying out this great work.

LORD LOVAT: My Lords, I wish to claim your Lordships' attention while I say a few words with regard to the gravity of this question of the scarcity of officers. It is difficult to discuss the question of the shortage of Militia officers alone, because, since the Militia are being made liable for service abroad, the question becomes wrapped up in the other and greater question of the shortage of officers for the Army as a whole. I should like to ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War what is the actual shortage of officers for the Militia when mobilised for service abroad. We have heard the figure of 1,000 quoted. The Militia is short of 1,000 officers at the present moment, but the question of inefficiency is not taken into account.

When the Militia becomes available for service abroad the object presumably for which they will be sent will be the defence of India. It would be criminal to send boys of seventeen, who, after all, comprise a large proportion of the junior officers in the Militia, to take part in a campaign in the North of India where enteric is so rife. In the same way, a large number of officers, from their positions in this country — Cabinet Ministers and others — would certainly not be able to go out with their units, which would add considerably to the number of inefficients. Moreover, the Militia, if it is to be sent abroad, must go as a fighting force; it will have to have a staff as well as a service corps. There are no arrangements at the present moment for a staff or for the other requirements of the Militia on mobilisation. Then, again, a number of officers would be seized for the Regular Army. It is well known that, when a campaign takes place, from 300 to 400 junior officers are at once taken off for the Regular Army. It is all very well to argue that in the next campaign, because the Militia are liable for service abroad, the junior officers will not be snatched away for the use of the Regular Army, but is it probable that the young men who enter the Militia with a view of joining the Regular service can be kept back from entering that service when war breaks out? I contend that it is not. That, again, will add considerably to your shortage of Militia officers. I would like to ask the noble Earl, the Under-Secretary, whether, when organised as a fighting machine, the Militia is not deficient in officers, not to the extent of 1,000, but to the extent of nearer 2,000.

The important point, however, is how the authorities are going to make good this deficiency? Where are the officers to come from when your Militia goes abroad? We learnt, from a reply given in another place the other day, that the reserve of regular officers was 2,000, while 30 per cent. of them were unfit. From the point of view of the Militia, the reserve of officers is almost entirely composed of old officers; but the shortage of the Militia is, as was brought out by the Norfolk Commission, in junior officers, and you are not likely to get these older officers to take positions as subalterns in the Militia. Is the supply likely to come through promotion to the Militia from the Volunteers? There is already a shortage of 2,700 officers in the Volunteers, and I suggest that many of the scandals and disgraceful surrenders in the South African War were due to the fact that many of the officers had been picked up anywhere and sent into the Army in the field. How can we guard against the junior officers in the Militia being taken and put into the Regular Army when war is declared? As we know, there are two classes of Militia officers—those who enter the Militia permanently and those who may be called birds of passage. Will it be fair to the birds of passage, who wish to make the Army their profession and who only enter the Militia temporarily, to refuse to allow them to go into the Regular Army in the event of war breaking out? I think not.

I would like to ask the noble Earl, the Under-Secretary, what the Government has done to remedy this crying deficiency. We have had this deficiency pointed out on many occasions. It was one of the greatest criticisms made by the Elgin Commission, and we next had our attention called to it by the Norfolk Commission. The deficiency has been alluded to by the noble Duke opposite on more than one occasion, and by Lord Heneage and other noble Lords on both sides of the House. What, I ask, has the Government done to remedy this alarming deficiency in officers and staff? The deficiency, as has been pointed out by the noble Duke, is getting worse, and, though I am in hearty sympathy with the suggestion which the noble Duke has brought forward, I doubt whether lords-lieutenant can be induced to do more than has already been done to remedy the evil. I do not in any way wish to oppose the suggestion, because any suggestion ought to be welcome, but is it likely to be final in getting us an additional 1,000 or 2,000 officers?

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD: I was rather suggesting increasing your agency by getting hold of the 3,700 deputy-lieutenants who at present are not active in getting recruits for the Militia.

LORD LOVAT: But, even with the assistance of deputy-lieutenants as well as lords-lieutenant, are you likely to produce the thousands of officers necessary for the Militia and the Volunteers, and make up the deficiency of 400 which you have in the Yeomanry? At any rate, I hope we shall be told by the noble Earl that an effort is being made to reduce this alarming deficiency, and that the House will not be informed by the Government that they are waiting for some scheme of defence, or that the blame is shifted from one party to another. We have been waiting for this scheme of defence for some years, and I trust that the Answer which will be given to-night will not be worked off on that particular line. Before I sit down I would like to express a pious wish that, before the end of the session some prominent military Peer will raise a debate on the subject of military officers as a whole. The officers engaged in the South African War suffered a great deal of blame through the inefficient officers, through the rubbish, sent out to command the troops; and in the event of war taking place again it seems to be probable that the same worthless material will be given out to the Army. I may mention that men sent home as worthless as privates came out afterwards to command 100 men, whom they made even worse than they were themselves.

EARL ROBERTS: My Lords, in my opinion there is a great deal in what the noble Duke has urged, and I trust that his words will be carefully considered. It is some thirty years ago since the Militia was removed from the control of the lords-lieutenant and put under the War Office; and, looking at its present condition, I cannot say that any great improvement has taken place from that change. Not only is there a shortage of officers, but very many of them are not fit to go on service if asked to do so. Now that the Militia under the new arrangement will be required to take a portion of service in foreign countries, it is essential that the officers should be men who can take their place with the troops in foreign countries. I have great faith in the territorial system, and it answered admirably during the war. We saw then, when soldiers were sent home ill and wounded, how the families were taken care of by the counties; and I believe that if some arrangement is made, such as the noble Duke has sketched out, the Militia recruiting as to men and officers will be very much increased in value and in numbers.

I feel strongly on this point because I have been accused of not saying very much in favour of the Militia regiments that came out to South Africa, and that I did not value the regiments nor the service to which they belonged. It caused me, however, the greatest anxiety when I saw regiments in the field who had come out with eight, nine, and ten officers only, instead of their full complement, owing to the officers having been taken away from the battalions to fill the vacancies caused by casualties or by the need created to fill up a number of staff appointments. We require not only that the Militia should be thoroughly officered in time of peace, but that there should be officers in the Militia and Army sufficient to fill up the vacancies that occur in troops mobilised to go on service as war proceeds. I hope, too, that before the end of the session the question will be raised in a specified form. In the meantime I commend the matter raised by the noble Duke to the earnest consideration of your Lordships, for it is of the most extreme importance to the efficiency of our Army that there should be not only officers to every unit, but a larger reserve of officers even than your Lordships seem to have any idea of. We want a reserve of 5,000 officers. I hope to see some carefully-considered plan by which we shall be able to get the number of officers provided willing to take their places in the Army after they have had a certain amount of training. Unless this be done it is impossible for us to hope to go to war with any chance of being successful. One way of considering how our object can be attained is carefully to consider what the noble Duke has brought forward.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: My Lords, I desire to say a few words on this subject as an old Militia officer who received his first commission from a lord-lieutenant. I anticipated, until I heard the remarks of the noble and gallant Field-Marshal who has just sat down, that the noble Earl who would reply on behalf of the Government would remind us how enormously the Militia had improved since the power was taken away from lords-lieutenant. It seems to me that there is a radical confusion of ideas in the minds of many persons between the functions of the civilian and the functions of the military in respect of this question. No doubt the moment the Militiaman is put into a uniform and has a rifle placed in his hands the soldier knows best how to deal with him. I say that with some reservation, because the fact that a man puts on a uniform and carries a rifle does not wash out all his civilian instincts immediately, and I think that in some matters of internal economy the civilian officer of Militia understands the Militiaman better than the soldier; but in other respects, such as training, we admit at once that the civilian ought to step aside.

As regards recruiting, however, civilians are better judges of how to bring in recruits than the military. The civilian knows their feelings and their prejudices, and can deal with them in a way which is absolutely impossible in the soldier. I remember being ordered over and over again, when I commanded a Militia regiment, to send recruiters to districts where I knew it was impossible to get recruits. When I sent a reply to this effect I received this answer, "It is a large district, and you have not got any Militiamen from it." In accordance with instructions I sent men down, and the result was, as I predicted, that we got nobody. I knew that in this district it was impossible to get a recruit, whilst in other districts recruits could be obtained; but this was unknown to the military authorities. It is perfectly true that in many respects the Militia has improved enormously since the days when the lord-lieutenant signed the commands, but it has not improved in the particular matters with which the lord-lieutenant then had to deal. Even in those days the deputy-lieutenants, to whom the noble Duke is looking for support now, did not take any part in getting officers.

When we had a debate on this subject earlier in the session the noble Earl the Under-Secretary for War, answering the proposal that the lord-lieutentant should take a more active part in this matter than hitherto, said that that would possibly lead to competition in recruiting between the officer commanding the district and the lord-lieutenant, and that nobody could want that. I confess I heard that statement with very great surprise. I could wish for nothing better. It seems to me that if you had two persons responsible for recruiting for the Militia—the officer commanding the district and the lord-lieutenant—you would probably have a competition between the two which would get you far more recruits than you could obtain in any other way; and, although I admit that there may be something to be said on both sides, I was astonished that the noble Earl scouted the suggestion on that ground. If, however, the two systems are incompatible I should certainly give my vote in favour of the responsibility being thrown on the lord-lieutenant and the deputy-lieutenants, and especially for the purpose of getting officers.

There is another matter which ought to be mentioned in this debate, because it has some bearing on the question whether the intervention of the lord-lieutenant would be useful in these cases. I hardly know how to deal with it, because if I put a supposititious case I know that the answer will be "You can always put supposititious cases." If I gave a concrete case it would be improper, but I will give an instance, without mentioning names, of the sort of thing which is going on at the present time. About three weeks ago a lord-lieutenant was informed that a second lieutenant, who had lately resigned his commission because he thought his private affairs would make it impossible for him to train in the Militia, had discovered after all that he could do his training and was anxious to go back to the regiment. I may say that he was perfectly willing to go back as the junior of his rank; there was no question of his superseding anybody else or of complications of any kind. He was a good officer, recommended by his own commanding officer and the lord-lieutenant, and the latter added a most urgent request that he should be gazetted as quickly as possible because the regiment was very short of officers and the training was just about to take place. Three weeks have passed. The training has begun. Nothing more has been heard upon the question.

I do not know what the experience of other lords-lieutenant is, but my experience is that a lord-lieutenant recommends a gentleman for a commission and gets no acknowledgment whatever. Now what, I ask, is to be done in a case like the one to which I have referred? If the lord-lieutenant had the authority of appointing these officers the difficulty could never have arisen. The Militia of the county would have been his chief interest, and he would have seen that this officer was gazetted without delay. In fact, I do not know that it was even necessary under the power originally held for that to be done. I imagine that if the lord-lieutenant signed the commission it would empower the officer to act. But when I commanded a Militia regiment a good many years ago the lord-lieutenant could not have interfered, and I should have gone as a commanding officer straight to the War Office. I should have asked to see the officer commanding the Auxiliary Forces, and should have laid the grievance before him; and from my experience of the way in which I was received—and I am afraid I was very troublesome to the War Office in those days—I believe the grievance would have been got over, and the whole thing settled satisfactorily.

But now what has happened? The officer commanding the regiment, as I understand, has no access to anybody except the local general officer commanding. That officer may or may not be interested in, or know much about the Militia, because it is by no means necessary for an officer to be cognisant of the details of Militia service in order to be a very distinguished officer in the Army. The lord-lieutenant can do nothing. As far as I understand, he has no *locus standi*, no right to intervene, and in this way your decentralisation, which sounded very well on paper, has had this effect, that any friction in the machine is fixed there and cannot be removed with that speed and facility with which it used to be. I have not one word to say against that kind of decentralisation which prevents a long correspondence with the War Office as to whether a man ought to have received sixpence more or sixpence less of his pay, which used to go on, but I do deprecate the present system, which seems to me to entirely preclude access to any of the higher authorities, either by the lord-lieutenant, by the officer commanding the regiment, or by anybody else. I have only brought this instance forward as showing the deadlock which there now seems to be in working the Militia satisfactorily. I believe that the increasing of the authority of lords-lieutenant over the appointment of officers would give them more interest in the Militia, would do much to improve that force, and, if extended to the Volunteer force, to improve the whole of the Auxiliary Forces.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND: My Lords, I had no intention of addressing your Lordships on this subject, but, as I have been prompted to do so, I trust that you will extend to me that consideration which is invariably given to those who address your Lordships for the first time, The whole of the Militia force will be grateful to the noble Duke behind me for having brought this matter before the attention of your Lordships. I must say I am not altogether enamoured of the way in which he suggests that his proposal for increasing the number of officers and men in the Militia should be carred out. I think the proposal to import the lord-lieutenant and the deputy-lieutenants into the recruiting service bristles with difficulties, nor can I agree with the noble Duke who spoke last that to set up competition between the commanding officer of the regimental district and the lord-lieutenant of the county would be a good thing for recruiting. I am afraid that, on the contrary, it would bring matters to a deadlock at once. If the Militia were enlisted under the old conditions of a more or less civilian force, I think something might be done in the way suggested by the noble Duke. But, since the recent Bill, which passed through your Lordships' House about two months ago, throwing on them the liability to foreign service on embodiment, the Militia force has become practically an integral part of the Army; and, speaking as an old Militia officer of many years standing, I am proud to think that we are looked upon as part of the effective Army of this country.

Those who have taken any interest in the Militia must have seen with extreme regret the deficiency now existing in men and officers. My noble friend below me (the Earl of Wemyss) has a panacea for these defects; but if any attempt were made to put the Militia ballot in force at this moment in order to increase the numbers, it would cause such a dislocation in the whole of the civil conditions of the country that some other system would have to be adopted at once. I agree with a great deal that fell from the noble Lord opposite, Lord Lovat, more especially with regard to the scarcity of officers and the material which was put forward during the South African War to fill up vacancies. It is somewhat invidious to bring personal experience to bear, but in this case I think your Lordships will excuse me if I make a personal allusion. I was rather more fortunate than a good many others when I took my regiment to South Africa, because we had gone through a term of embodiment and had become more or less effective; but there were many regiments sent to South Africa almost immediately on embodiment, which had not the advantage of that thorough military training which those who remained a longer time in this country before going out were able to be put through. Some of these regiments were in no more effective condition for being put into the fighting line than a Militia regiment would be to-day immediately on mobilisation. That is a point which will have to be considered.

It is all very well to talk about the shortage of officers and men and the means by which that shortage can be made up, but I would point out that not only must the men be got but they must be put through such a training as would fit them to take their place in the fighting line. This question of efficiency is not a toy to play with. It is a matter which bears a very near relation to the safety of the country; and what I want your Lordships to consider is that the country has to be provided with a force which can be relied upon in time of need. It is no part of my business to defend the War Office. I am well aware that it has been brought home more closely to Militia officers than to others that the shortcomings of the War Office are great. We feel it in the Militia service more especially, but I think the complaint made by the Duke of Northumberland with regard to the difficulty found in getting a young officer appointed to a certain regiment might have been overcome by a little arrangement. Almost the same thing has happened not infrequently to me, and if the commanding officer had gone to the officer who represents the Militia at the War Office——

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: May I remind the noble Duke that he is not allowed to do so now by the regulations?

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND: I think my noble friend is wrong. If the officer commanding the regiment had gone to the officer who represents the Militia at the War Office and told him that the officer's name had been sent in and that it was desirable he should be gazetted as soon as possible, that would have been done. It has, as I have said, happened to me over and over again, and I have always found that no obstacle has been placed in my way by the War Office.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: May I ask the noble Duke if it has recently happened to him?

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND: I am not able at this moment to state the last time it occurred, but I have never had any difficulty in regard to the matter. There is nothing to prevent an officer approaching the War Office on a question of that kind. This subject of Militia service is one which appeals so much to me after the many years I have spent in that force that my anxiety to see it in the condition in which it ought to be is my excuse for having addressed your Lordships this evening.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of DONOUGHMORE): My Lords, I do not think it will be necessary for me to detain your Lordships at any great length in answering the interesting speech of the noble Duke and the comments upon what he said which followed. The noble Duke outlined his scheme in a speech earlier in the session, and I stated then very briefly what I thought were some of the objections to it. He now brings forward his scheme in greater detail, and in the Notice which he has placed on the Paper he asks if we will consider what he says. I need not say that we shall be most happy to consider the subject in all its bearings. With a great many of the theories of the noble Duke I, of course, must most cordially agree, though I cannot help seeing difficulties in putting some of those theories into practice.

Before I refer more closely to the matters brought forward by the noble Duke, I would like to reply to some of the criticisms advanced by subsequent speakers in the course of the debate. The noble Marquess below the gangway, Lord Granby, commented on the shortness of officers, not only in the Militia, but also in the Regular Army, and he put forward certain reasons which, in his opinion, account for what he called the disinclination throughout the country to join the Army. The main reason he described, in what was to me somewhat veiled language, as insecurity of tenure. I wish that the noble Marquess had expanded his views on that subject in the same way as he did on the second point he mentioned. It is well within your Lordships' recollection that my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War has repeatedly shown that in the forefront of his mind there exists a belief that it will be necessary in the very early future to increase considerably the number of officers in the Army; and I am not able to see, in view of that definite statement by the Minister who is responsible to Parliament and to the nation for the Army, how any officer in the Army at the present moment can feel insecure in his tenure of his commission.

The noble Marquess also put forward the view that officers are not sufficiently paid. I admit that the pay is low; but we must not forget that the supply is still considerably in excess of the demand except in one particular branch of the service—the cavalry. I have not got the figures with me; I did not know that this point would have been raised or I should certainly have had them; but I am aware that at the last examination the number of gentlemen who passed the standard qualifying for admission to Sandhurst was considerably in excess of the number we were able to accept owing to the accommodation at Sandhurst. We hope very shortly to largely increase the accommodation there, and that increase will, obviously, considerably help us in combating the deficiency to which the noble Marquess referred.

I come now to the remarks of my noble friend Lord Lovat. The noble Lord asked for particulars as to the deficiency of officers if the Militia were mobilised for war now; and, going further into detail, he said that though we were about 1,000 officers deficient at the present moment, we should, owing to the want of a service corps and an ordnance department, be 2,000 deficient if the Militia were mobilised now. If I may say so, I think the problem should be looked at rather differently. When the Militia is mobilised for war it is not mobilised separately from the whole Army. It does not have its service corps and ordnance department separate to itself. I therefore think the noble Lord should have asked for figures as to the number deficient on any mobilisation scheme for the whole Army.

Lord LOVAT: Are you not short for the Army now if it were mobilised?

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: I quite admit that we are deficient; but the noble Lord has asked me a very complicated Question as regards mobilisation for the whole Army, the figures of which I do not think it is quite reasonable to expect me to have in my pocket on an afternoon when I am to be asked a Question with reference to the condition of the Militia. I shall be glad to ascertain what the figures are, but I cannot promise to give them to the noble Lord, for I do not know that it would be advisable that they should be published. If I am permitted to do so, I will be very glad to let the noble Lord have them. The noble Lord asked where the officers required are coming from in the future. He asked the Question straight out, and then he said, in substance, though in more formal language—"Do not let us hear any nonsense about considering a scheme; but let us know definitely where these officers for the Auxiliary Forces are to come from." I was amazed at that statement, and I think your Lordship will be amazed, too, when I tell you that we are at this moment inquiring into a most detailed and complicated scheme which has been put before us by the noble Lord himself. I think it is rather unreasonable, when we have had this scheme in our hands for a few weeks and are gladly going into it in great detail, to be asked this Question, and to be told that the questioner did not wish to hear any nonsense about the matter being under consideration.

I do not in the least depreciate the importance of this question of officers for the Auxiliary Forces. I am most grateful to the noble Lord for the suggestion he has given us. There are other schemes of a similar nature which are at present being worked out in detail at the War Office, and amongst these naturally would be the remedy which has been suggested to us this evening by the noble Duke who initiated this discussion. But, as regards this particular one, I am not entirely convinced that it will prove the final solution of the problem. As has been said, lords-lieutenant already have power to nominate candidates for the Militia, and it is difficult to see exactly how their activities are to be considerably extended. They have no staff for the purpose. They have certainly not the facilities, in spite of what has been said, that a colonel of a regiment has—a colonel who, in every case we can manage it, is a county man and always should be a county man.

Difficulties suggest themselves on every side. One of the difficulties with which the Militia has to contend has been referred to to-night by the noble Lord behind me, Lord Blythswood—the paucity of young country gentlemen in many of the counties of England. Your Lordships will remember that last year my noble friend Lord Raglan, putting it rather bluntly, stated that as we have been legislating the landed class out of existence for many years, we could not expect them to come forward now to officer our Auxiliary Forces, because they did not exist. I confess, therefore, that I am not sanguine that lord-lieutenants, if they had the machinery, could, as regards officers, help us very much more than they do now. Still, as I have said, I would be most reluctant to refuse to inquire into the question. I should think that it is in regard to officers far more than in regard to men that we can look for assistance in this direction. As regards the men, I entirely agree with the noble Duke who initiated this discussion that the more we can increase local interest, not only in the Militia, but in the whole of the military forces of the Crown, the easier must the recruiting problem become. So far I can agree with him in the generality. At the same time it is difficult to follow him in the particular remedy which I understand he now advocates—namely, that recruiting for the Militia should be organised under the lord-lieutenant and entirely separated from recruiting for the Regular Army under the direction of the War Office.

And here I would turn to the point raised by the noble Duke, the Duke of Northumberland, with regard to what I said on a former occasion as to the danger of competition between the lord-lieutenant of a county and the officer commanding the district. The noble Duke thinks that nothing could be better than competition; that having the lord-lieutenant on one side and the commanding officer of the district on the other, both recruiting for the Militia, is bound to lead to the most favourable results. I am afraid that I did not make myself clear to the noble Duke. What I objected to was the prospect of having the lord-lieutenant recruiting on one side for the Militia and the commanding officer of the regimental district recruiting on the other side for the Line. If I remember rightly I used the phrase "pull devil, pull baker," as illustrating the condition of affairs which I thought must inevitably ensue, and I still feel very strongly the objection I then raised. The noble Duke who called attention to this subject to-night discounts that objection. He says the Militiamen and the men going into the Line are a different class, and that rivalry between them is, therefore, not to be feared. I wish I could agree that the Militia and the Line recruits were of a different class. We know that last year in the General Annual Report of the British Army it was shown that just under 15,000 men went on from the Militia into the Line. I cannot imagine a more convincing or damaging fact than that as against the theory that the Line and the Militia recruit from a different class.

Your Lordships will also remember a speech delivered last year by a noble Lord who I regret is not in his place to-night, Lord Harris, in which he laid particular stress upon the fact that he regarded the Militia as a feeder for the Line—a further justification for my saying now that Militiamen are regarded as coming from a separate class from the Line. I think it is a pity. I wish the Militia did consist of a different class and did not compete for recruits with the Line; but, convinced as I am that the Militia and the Line do draw men from the same classes in the community, I cannot but feel very nervous as to the result of any experiment laying us open to the danger, if competition should be set up, that one branch of His Majesty's forces should do harm to another. Whatever remedy we find, it is useless to suggest that remedy if there is danger of its simply improving one branch by doing harm to the other. The noble Duke will recognise that at the present moment the Militia permanent staff is looked to at non-training periods to act to a large extent as recruiting sergeants for the Line; and the carrying out of his suggestion would involve a considerable change, therefore, not only in the recruiting arrangements for the Militia itself, but for the whole of His Majesty's forces.

I do not wish to appear a carping critic, but simply to point out to the noble Duke that there are difficulties in the way, and that we cannot rush quickly into the remedy that he suggests. I can only repeat that I shall be most happy to ask my colleages at the War Office, who go more into detail on these questions than I do, to work out the whole of his scheme and consider it in all its bearings. I would like to mention one fact which may be of interest to your Lordships. Perhaps rather justly, one or two of the speeches this afternoon, though not impatient in tone, have had a little impatience underlying them at the apparent lack of rapidity of progress. Your Lordships, I am sure, will not be impatient. This is a matter which must be approached cautiously. Everybody is in favour of reform, but most people are opposed to any particular reform, and everybody is opposed to being reformed themselves. The lines which we would like to follow—the lines recommended by the Norfolk Commission which reported last year—all involve expense, and until money comes along we are unable to carry out such recommendations as that the Militia should train for six months on enlistment and at least six weeks during subsequent years; that commanding officers should form part of the permanent staff, and that there should be organisation in brigades and divisions, and so forth.

I have already explained how we hope to obtain money to carry out some of these things, but there is another necessity which has been referred to this afternoon—the necessity for organising the Auxiliary Forces at home for the purposes of war. I am glad to say that considerable progress has lately been made in formulating proposals in this direction. It would not be expedient for me now to explain the details, but I may perhaps be allowed to state to your Lordships that from papers which have been before me during the last few days I am able to say with confidence that I believe considerable progress has been made in formulating proposals in this very important direction. Naturally matters have been facilitated by the work of the Defence Committee, and I have every hope that before very long we shall be able to finish and settle finally such a scheme of organisation as that to which I am now referring, which must effect a considerable improvement in the general efficiency of the Auxiliary Forces of the Crown.

Earl SPENCER: My Lords, I rise with some diffidence to speak on this subject after what we have heard from so many noble Lords who themselves command or have commanded Militia regiments and have had great experience in regard to them. At the same time I feel that I have perhaps some little claim to say something on these matters, as I have been for a considerable time one of the Sovereign's lords-lieutenants. The subject we have before us to-night and the topics that have been referred to range over a very wide area. I will say a few words with regard to the difficulties that now exist, and which were put forward exceedingly well by the noble Marquess who spoke second. The noble Marquess referred to what he called insecurity of tenure as one of the reasons of the unpopularity of the Militia at this moment. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary for War criticised that expression, but I interpret it in this way—that those who are now proposing to enter the Militia have really no idea what kind of Militia they are entering, or what changes will be made in it. A short time ago a measure was passed through this House altering fundamentally, as I conceived, the position of the Militia. Some noble Lords held one view and some another, but I confess myself that I had very grave doubt, not only whether it was right and expedient to alter the fundamental character of the Militia, but also whether the doing of that might not make the Militia more unpopular, and make it much more difficult to secure officers and men for that force.

The Earl of Donoughmore.

The noble Earl who has just sat down complains that there is impatience about the plans of His Majesty's Government. I do not really know whether I ought to say the plans of the Secretary of State for War or the plans of the Defence Committee. I have always felt that there was a considerable danger in the creation of a Committee which would take off some of the serious responsibility which always used to rest on the Secretary of State for War, who was really responsible to Parliament for all that was done with regard to the Army. I will touch on the point with regard to officers first. I could not quite follow all the arguments of the noble Earl the Under-Secretary with regard to the want of officers. At one moment he said there was no real want of officers for the Army generally, and that lately there were more applicants to go to Sandhurst than they could accommodate there, and yet in another part of his speech he rather admitted that Lord Lovat was right in saying that if there were a mobilisation there would be a great dearth of officers. I do not understand the position of the noble

Earl, and I would venture to say that anybody who has had anything to do with young men wishing to enter the Army as officers knows that there are an enormous number of applicants for commissions. One young man who was nearly related to myself was seeking to be an officer, and on the two occasions that he went up there were between 600 and 800 candidates with only a limited number of vacancies at Sandhurst. Why is this? We see an enormous number of men seeking to be officers, and a great number rejected. Why, then, is it that there is this great deficiency?

Is it not the fact that it is after men have entered the Army that the great falling off occurs? And thus there are an enormous number of resignations of officers. That is a very serious matter indeed, and I should like very much if some time or another a member of His Majesty's Government would explain the reason. I sometimes think that, though it is most desirable and important to make the officers of the Army as efficient as possible, the regulations, both with regard to officers of the Regular Army and officers and men of the Militia and other Auxiliary Forces, are driven too hard, that the authorities forget that these are all officers voluntarily, and that they make the conditions for young officers so hard now that you cannot get them to remain in the service. I think that in some way or other this should be modified. Men entering the Militia are also uncertain as to what will happen to them. The late Act of Parliament may have a very considerable effect in checking entry.

With regard to what the noble Earl said just now upon the question whether the Militia are drawn from a different class from those who enlist for the Line, I think it is the case that the men who enlist in the Militia and those who enlist in the Line come from the same class, but they are men who have different intentions as to what they will do in the world. Those who enter the Militia are men who do not want to give up their whole time to soldiering. They want to do patriotic service and enter the Militia while working in some profession or trade. Those who enter the Regular Army, on the other hand, are ready to devote themselves for a much longer time to the service. Though you may say that they are drawn from the same class they have different ideas, and they ought certainly, if possible, to have their separate views in this matter kept in mind, and those who intend to serve in the Militia while following their profession or trade ought not to be driven out of their course by too onerous duties being imposed on them during training. I believe that a great deal of the falling off in the numbers who enlist for the Militia has been caused by bringing the Militia for training too often to places at a distance from their own homes. I am happy to think that in my own county that has now been changed. In my county last year, for the first time in five years, the Militia trained in Northampton, and at this moment the Militia are under canvas close to my park training for the first time in the rural part of the county. This is a system which it is exceedingly desirable should be extended.

I have stated what I think are some of the reasons why enlistment for the Militia has so considerably fallen off. I now come to the proposal which has been submitted by the noble Duke opposite. He proposes not merely to go back to the old system of giving authority to the lord-lieutenant to enlist for the Militia, but to go a great deal further. I do not speak from experience, because I was appointed just after the change was made in 1872 or 1873, it was made under Mr. Cardwell; but I think the noble Duke will not contradict me when I say that before the change was made, though the Militia were under lords-lieutenant, the lords-lieutenant, so far as I know, never did anything in regard to recruiting. They did everything in regard to appointments. They appointed all the officers, from the colonel down to the sub-lieutenants and ensigns, that existed at that time. I cannot help thinking that to the change which took place we cannot attribute the whole of the difficulties which now exist. Certainly, for many years after the change took place the Militia prospered and there were plenty of enlistments both of officers and men. I do, however, say that the result of taking away the appointments from the lords-lieutenant has removed to a very great extent some of the inducements which created the local interest in the Militia. I agree with the noble Duke with regard to that. At the present moment the lord-lieutenant has very little inducement indeed to assist in this matter. The Duke of Northumberland spoke of the way in which he had been treated, and said that many of his recommendations had received very little notice, and that he had waited a long while before he got any reply.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I did not complain of the want of carrying out of any recommendations I have made. I have only been a lord-lieutenant for a very few months, but what I said was that there was no acknowledgment of any letter sent in recommending a commission. The commission was granted, but there was no letter.

*EARL SPENCER: I was going to say that that is exactly the position in which I was placed. Very great changes have taken place with regard to the recommendations of lords-lieutenant. At one time the recommendations for first commissions always went to the Under-Secretary, but that has been changed several times. Latterly I have sent in recommendations and have never had any answer whatever. I have merely received an acknowledgment from one officer saying that my letter had been forwarded to the proper quarters. In one case an officer whom I had recommended was appointed, and was obliged later to give up his commission, but I was never informed either of my recommendation having had effect, or of the officer's resignation. I agree that the lords-lieutenant in this respect have not been encouraged in the proper way, and on one occasion I proposed to give the whole thing up, and no longer to recommend any officers, but the colonel at the time said he thought that there was some advantage in the lord-lieutenant intervening in regard to first commissions, and, therefore, I reluctantly continued the practice.

The fact is, the influence of lords-lieutenant with regard to all these matters has been confined to getting up subscriptions for the men in time of war, and in that way they have no doubt done something to encourage local feeling, but I cannot help thinking that if they received more encouragement in regard to the Militia, they might have more influence than at present, and might be able to do a considerable amount of good service. I will give an instance which came before me. One of the reasons why we get fewer recruits at this moment in my own county is that the whole organisation of the staple trade of the county has been altered in recent years. In Northamptonshire the staple trade is shoemaking, and in my early days the men followed it in their own homes. But that has now been entirely altered, and the trade is carried on in factories. I understand that the greatest objection is offered by the proprietors of these factories to the breaking up of the men, who work together in small gangs or parties, and when one or two want to join the Militia, the employers say they must not go, and they are prevented from joining. That is a case where the lord-lieutenant might exercise local influence, and see whether some arrangement might not be possible. Therefore, I agree with the noble Duke that more encouragement ought to be given to lords-lieutenant to excite interest locally in the Auxiliary Forces, and if that were done some good at all events would follow.

At the present moment the double system does not work very well. The Militia ought either to be taken completely out of the hands of the local authorities and entirely centralised, or some serious modification with regard, at all events, to the officering of regiments ought to be made. It is, I admit, a difficult matter. I do not think that the whole difficulty arises from the change, but I think it is desirable and important that more local influence should be exercised, and it would be exercised if the lords-lieutenant were in some way or other brought in more directly to assist the Militia and the Auxiliary Forces generally. I listened with interest to what the noble Earl opposite said at the end of his speech with regard to what was going on. He spoke of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War having in the forefront of his mind the question of the increase of officers. Well, it may be that he has got it in the forefront of his mind, but we have never really arrived at what his mind is on the subject. We have had scheme after scheme hinted at; we have been told that this scheme or that scheme was going to be carried out; but we are still in the dark on the matter. We do not know what is going to be done, and that is a very serious matter.

We have very great reason to complain of this, because it is really affecting the services. I have no doubt that if these questions were once settled, and we saw what was going to be done with regard to the Auxiliary Forces generally, our difficulties would be diminished. We cannot press too strongly on His Majesty's Government the importance of solving these problems. Though the solution may be difficult, it is their business to find the solution for these difficulties. This evolution of schemes has now been going on for many years. We have had so many schemes that we are bewildered, and it is high time that the question was finally settled. It would be very satisfactory, if the noble Marquess the Leader of the House is going to speak, if he could assure us that this has actually been done. We are getting tired of hearing that this scheme or that scheme is being considered and that fair progress has been made in regard to it. Alas! we never arrive at what the scheme is, and, therefore, I think we have a right to demand that this state of uncertainty should come to an end, and that the Government should declare finally what their proposals are in regard to this most important subject.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, both the noble Earl who has just addressed your Lordships and the Duke of Northumberland have mentioned cases in which they, in their capacity as lords-lieutenant, addressed the War Office in regard to matters connected with the Militia regiments for which they are responsible, and in which they failed altogether to obtain a reply. My noble friend the Under-Secretary assures me that if any one is to blame in these cases the War Office is not the culprit. The War Office, I know, is the habitual criminal of these debates; and it is always assumed that, if anything goes wrong the War Office should be taken to task. But not very long ago, in deference to a general demand for decentralisation — a word which sounds so blessedly in the ears of many people—a good deal of work which had previously been transacted in Pall Mall was transferred to the general officers commanding districts. It was generally felt that it was desirable that the War Office should be as far as possible relieved of the detail of administrative routine, and correspondence of this kind was in consequence transferred from Pall Mall to the districts. My noble friend tells me that if the noble Duke and the noble Earl will supply him with particulars of the cases he will make it his business to inquire into the causes of the delay.

As to the Militia we are agreed up to this point — that the present condition of the force is most unsatisfactory and urgently calls for improvement. But when we come to the question of remedies the agreement is not so complete. The number of prescriptions that have been drawn up is remarkable. The noble Earl, like other speakers to-night, expressed some surprise because the Secretary of State for War had not yet seen his way to produce a full and complete scheme for remedying all the defects which recent experience and inquiry have disclosed. But is it reasonable to complain of the Secretary of State for his inaction.

Your Lordships will recollect the important Report produced by the Royal Commission presided over by the Duke of Norfolk. I have here a Memorandum drawn up by the Secretary of State for War containing an analysis of some of the more important recommendations of that Commission. There are between thirty and forty substantive propositions, all of which require the utmost care before they can be accepted or refused. Not only do they raise points of great difficulty and intricacy, but they are propositions which involve a large expenditure of public money; and it is not so many nights ago that I was taken to task in this House on account of the growth of our military expenditure. Although we certainly should not grudge the expenditure of money to make the Militia efficient, we certainly owe it to the country, particularly after our experience in these matters, to scrutinise with the greatest care these proposals, some of them very far-reaching, for altering the character and conditions of service of the Militia force.

Then it is incorrect to say that the Secretary of State for War has taken no steps to deal with the Militia. A Bill has already passed this House—the most important measure affecting the *status* of the Militia which has for many years been produced in Parliament—I mean the Bill under which Militiamen become liable in certain circumstances for service beyond the limits of this country; and I heard with great satisfaction the cheers which greeted the mention of that Bill by the noble Duke. The fact is that these proposals are proposals of very great delicacy and difficulty; because what is the cardinal proposal of those who, like the noble Duke, wish to see the efficiency of the Militia increased? The Duke of Richmond, to whose speech we listened with great interest and satisfaction, put the case well when he said that it was of no use to raise the numerical strength of the Militia; but what mattered was the quality and efficiency of the men. But efficiency implies training; and when you come to proposals to increase the training of the Militia, you find yourself at once face to face with a problem of the utmost difficulty.

It is very easy to talk of training the Militia for months instead of for weeks; but if you take away a Militia officer or private for six months training, as the Norfolk Commission proposed, you at once place it beyond his power to follow those civilian pursuits upon which he depends for his livelihood. These are matters about which it is impossible to dogmatise; and I think my right hon. colleague is right when he pursues a careful and deliberate line of action in regard to this question, and, above all, when he refuses to deal with it without consulting, as he is doing, the commanding officers of Militia battalions. We have taken the Militia Vote this year at the full amount at which it stood last year; and the hope of the Secretary of State is that we may gradually, by reducing useless units, or by amalgamating smaller units with larger bodies, find ourselves able to spend on the units which remain a larger amount with good results for their efficiency.

I pass to the particular remedy recommended by the noble Duke. His desire is that a more conspicuous part should be taken by the lords-lieutenant and deputy-lieutenants of counties in dealing with the Militia. I am perfectly prepared to say that, so far as the principle of the noble Duke's proposal is concerned, we are entirely at one with him. We think that no pains should be spared to increase the connection of the Militia with the territorial authorities; and the suggestion made by Lord Blythswood that not only lords-lieutenant and deputy-lieutenants should be encouraged to interest themselves in the Militia, but that other local authorities might take a similar part, is one well worthy of consideration. That is the more true because, in the case of lord-lieutenants and deputy-lieutenants, they are constitutionally connected with the Militia force. The deputy-lieutenants hold their commissions under the Militia Act, and it would be natural, therefore, for them to take an interest in that force. But I am bound to say that it seems to me that the lord-lieutenant is more likely to use his influence with advantage in the case of the officers than in the case of the men in the Militia. The lord-lieutenant and his deputy-lieutenants may be presumed to have some knowledge of their counties and of the families from whom officers are likely to be drawn. Therefore, as far as obtaining the services of subalterns is concerned, there is no reason why their aid should not be usefully invoked.

I am not sure that I should go quite so far as the noble Duke when he suggested that, if the deputy-lieutenants do not at the end of a fixed time produce their full quota of subalterns, their commissions should be withdrawn. I picture to myself the pitiable state of mind of the three deputy-lieutenants who are expected by the noble Duke to produce one subaltern amongst them, and who, at the end of the five years period of grace which he allows them, finding themselves unable to produce a suitable candidate are to be themselves sentenced to extinction. That, however, is not an essential portion of the proposal. The case is different as to recruiting the men for the Militia. The lord-lieutenant has no staff which could assist him in organising the county or in drawing recruits from different parts of it.

I admit that the Militia in the past has suffered very greatly from the undue competition to which it has been subjected owing to the practice of taking recruits for the Militia and passing them into the Line, sometimes even before they have actually joined their Militia battalions. That is a matter to which the Secretary of State is giving his earnest attention, and he is in hope of being able to devise some means of avoiding competition of that kind.

As to the general subject, I agree with the noble Earl that, although the change under which the lords-lieutenant were deprived of their functions in respect of the Militia may have had an effect upon the force, it is unfair to attribute to that change the whole of the falling off in its strength. The explanation of that must be sought for in other causes into which I will not now enter. I will only say that His Majesty's Government are fully aware of the necessity of taking some adequate means of arresting this decadence, and that the particular suggestions which have been made by your Lordships during this debate will certainly receive the most attentive consideration.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I do not wish to prolong this debate, but I should like to be allowed to say a word or two upon the subject of the appointment of subaltern officers. I do not think that the double system that exists at the present can really work well. Somebody must be responsible, either the lord-lieutenant or the commanding officer of the regiment. At present either of them can appoint. I have certainly in my own experience not had any difficulty in the matter, but it has been because, acting upon what I understood to be the view of the War Office, I have hardly ever interfered in the appointment of these officers. But if you want to get the influence of the lord-lieutenant brought forward to secure a large proportion of local officers for the Militia, you must, at least so far as subaltern officers are concerned, revert to the practice by which he was the person who made the selection and recommended the proper persons. No lord-lieutenant would be so foolish as not to consult the commanding officer of the regiment on the subject. I feel that the double system will not work satisfactorily, and that so long as it is in force, in that respect at any rate, no material change will be introduced. You may debate these questions as much as you like, but the discussion will be unavailing and the difficulties will remain until the Militia force knows what His Majesty's Government really intend to do.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 4th July, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Western Railway (New Railways) Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Hastings Tramways Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP L).

The CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS informed the House, That the Committee on Group L of Private Bills, not being appointed to meet until Thursday, the parties promoting the Littlehampton Urban District Council Bill [Lords], which was set down for consideration on the first day of the meeting of the Committee, had appeared before him and proved that the evidence of George Montague Percy, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, was essential to their case; and that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House.

Ordered, That the said George Montague Percy do attend the Committee on Group L of Private Bills upon Thursday, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Donovan's Divorce Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Select Committee on Divorce Bills, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

Donovan's Divorce Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings in the House of Lords on the Second Reading of Donovan's Divorce Bill, together with the Documents deposited in the case, be returned to the House of Lords.—(*Mr. Serjeant Hemphill.*)

Cork Junction Railways Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

City of London (Escape from Fire) Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP E).

Sir HENRY AUBREY-FLETCHER reported from the Committee on Group E of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Thursday, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, to act as executors, administrators, and trustees; and in other fiduciary capacities." [Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [Lords.]

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL.

Petition from Westminster, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th March; *Mr. Eugene Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 227.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Outbreak of Epizootic Lymphangitis amongst Horses in Ireland.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture has taken steps or propose to take steps to ascertain the manner of the introduction of the disease epizootic lymphangitis into Ireland, as requested by a resolution of the Waterford County Council; and whether, if it be shown that the disease was introduced by Army horses, compensation will be paid to the owners of horses lost or destroyed by the epidemic.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Department do not consider it necessary to make any formal investigation in this matter. The first cases of epizootic lymphangitis in Ireland were notified to the Department by the military authorities in November, 1903, as having occurred in two Army horses at the Curragh Camp. These horses were diagnosed by the Army veterinary officers to be suffering from the disease mentioned and were destroyed. Where horses are compulsorily slaughtered by direction of the local authority, compensation is granted out of the local rate, and one-half of such compensation is recouped to the local authority out of the General Cattle Diseases Fund. There is no power under the Diseases of Animals Acts to award compensation for horses not so compulsorily slaughtered.

Proposed Ministry of Commerce.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state when the Bill promised in the King's Speech to appoint a Minister of Commerce will be introduced; and whether he will afford facilities to have it passed this session.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I fear I cannot, in the present condition of public business, make any announcement of a date for the introduction of this measure.

South African War—Investigation of Field Force Canteen Accounts.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the disclosures of the Secretary of State for India as to the accounts and management of the field force canteen in South Africa during the war, will the Government take steps to secure investigation of these accounts by the Royal Commission or, failing this, could a separate investigation take place.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I think the hon. Member will see that the terms of reference to the Royal Commission are wide enough to include this subject.

Arrears of Interest on Purchase Money uncollected from Tenants on the King-Harman Estate.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners can state the total amount of arrears of interest at 3½ per cent. on the purchase money which has been uncollected, and also the amount forgiven to the tenant purchasers on the King-Harman Estate, and for what period has it been remitted; when will the vesting orders be issued in the case of the purchasers in the town of Boyle as well as on the rural portions of the estate; and what has been the cause of the delay in issuing these orders, seeing that the terms of sale were agreed to in November, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Interest at 3½ per cent. on the purchase money is, in accordance with the agreement entered into by the the purchasers, due by them for the period from 9th November, 1904, to 19th May, 1905, when the advances were made; and receivable orders for the amounts due have recently been issued. No rent or arrears of rent were payable to the Land Commission, and they have no knowledge whether any such arrears were remitted. The Commissioners have not finally agreed to purchase the town of Boyle, and the holdings cannot, therefore, yet be vested in the tenants. The rural holdings will be vested in the tenants at an early date.

Government Redistribution Proposals.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now state the terms of the Redistribution Resolutions, and what amount of notice he proposes to give before they are proceeded with.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I am not in a position at present to state the terms of the Resolutions; but notice will be given which I trust will prove adequate.

Reduction of Telegraph Rate between Great Britain and India—Loss Incurred.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if any loss has resulted since the reduction of the telegraphic rates between Great Britain and India; and, if so, will he give the actual figures of such loss for each year; and also state whether any compensation has been paid on account of such loss, and in what proportion it was charged to the British and Indian Exchequers respectively,

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Yes. The telegraph rates were reduced between Europe and India from the 1st March, 1902. For the thirteen months ending 31st March, 1903, the loss of revenue was calculated to have been £48,769, and for the year 1903-4, £5,214. The Government of India is responsible for the repayment of one-third of this loss to the telegraph administrations concerned. The British Exchequer takes no share in the compensation paid. For the year 1904-5 there has been no loss of revenue owing to the reduction of rate.

Construction and Improvement of Piers at Smerwick and Ballydavid.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state when the Congested Districts Board will give grants for the construction and improvement of piers at Smerwick and Ballydavid, places which depend almost entirely on the fishing industry.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Board informed the local authorities in August last that they were prepared to contribute a sum not exceeding £200 towards the cost of constructing a pier at Smerwick. No reply has been received. The Board will investigate the requirements of Ballydavid, but they have at present no further funds available for public works.

Surrey Education Committee's Accounts.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the report of the district auditor, Mr. Wraith, on the county education accounts, for the year 1903–4, of the county of Surrey; whether he intends to take any action in view of the irregularities and illegalities disclosed by the district auditor in these accounts; and whether the payments disallowed by the district auditor have been refunded; and, if not, will he explain why this has not been done.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I have seen the report referred to, which relates to the audit of the accounts of the county council for the first year in which the Education Act, 1902, was in operation in the county. Many of the irregularities to which attention was drawn by the auditor related to matters arising out of the transition from the old to the new arrangements, and will not be likely to recur. A certain number of the irregularities occurred in connection with the accounts of managers of elementary schools to whom the receipt and payment of moneys on behalf of the education authority had been entrusted. With regard to these I may state that the education committee, after consideration of the auditor's report, have drawn up some detailed instructions with a view of securing that in future the financial transactions and accounts of the managers shall be properly controlled and supervised. The committee have applied to the Local Government Board for their assistance in settling these instructions, and their proposals are receiving careful consideration. The auditor made a number of disallowances, and in seventeen instances the amount of the payment disallowed has been refunded by the managers of the school. In two cases it is understood that an appeal against the auditor's decision will be made to the Local Government Board, and in the remaining six cases appeals have already been made to the Board, who are giving consideration to them.

Lighting of Parliament Square.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if the Board of Works intervened in October, 1904, when the Westminster City Council was about concluding a contract for the better lighting of Parliament Square; if so, what steps have been taken since by the Board of Works to improve the lighting of the square; and if it will continue to be lighted by the Board or whether the City Council of Westminster will be allowed to perform the work.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) Parliament Square lies within the jurisdiction of the Office of Works, and the Westminster City Council has therefore no power to conclude any contract for the lighting of it; experiments have been made by the Office of Works to determine what method of improved lighting should be adopted. It is proposed to light the Square with the same lamp which has proved so successful in New Palace Yard; and it is expected that the work will be carried out in the autumn so that the lamps may be available before the winter.

Contemplated Partition of Bengal.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that an influentially-signed petition opposing the contemplated partition of Bengal is under submission from the inhabitants of Eastern Bengal; and whether he will postpone passing Orders on the proposals of the Government until this memorial has been considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The proposals of the Government of India on this subject reached me on the 18th of February, and I have already communicated to them the decision of the Secretary of State in Council accepting their proposals.

County of Waterford Petty Sessions Cases.

MR. O'SHEE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what was the number of complaints heard in petty sessions by the justices in each of the thirteen petty sessions districts of the county of Waterford, exclusive of the petty sessions district of the county borough of Waterford, in the years 1903 and 1904 respectively; in how many of the cases were convictions obtained or orders granted; in how many was there no appearance; and how many complaints were dismissed.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have furnished the hon. Member with a tabular statement giving the information asked for.

Destruction of Ancient Monument on King-Harman Estate.

MR. TULLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners are the legal owners of the ancient monument recently destroyed by malicious injury on the King-Harman Estate; and, if so, have they taken any steps to replace the same, and thus save the ratepayers from any liability in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners understand that the monument referred to is situate on land which is vested in them. They have instructed their inspector to inquire into and report on the matter.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Volunteers and Service Abroad.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the terms of the instructions recently issued by the Army Council as to the efficiency of Volunteer units.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): I only received notice of this Question as I came to the House, and I am unable textually to quote the document. The general effect of the instruction is to request the Volunteer officers to furnish the War Department with particulars as to the number of men in their respective commands who are, under the ordinary Army regulations, fit for service abroad. They have also asked for further information as to the number of first-class shots in the commands. The hon. Member will see that it is most important for us to ascertain in peace these particulars, which we should have to ascertain in time of war. I may add that the time which was originally named in this order appeared to me to be short, and that the Army Council has largely extended that time in order to give more opportunities to Volunteer officers to comply with the request of the War Department.

*MR. McCRAE: Have not Volunteer commanding officers been informed that the men fit for active service must be first-class shots, and is that rule applicable to the Regular Army?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No. I thought I had made that clear. We asked Volunteer officers to state how many men are fit under the ordinary service rules for service abroad. We also asked, as an additional question, how many of these men who are fit for service abroad are also first-class shots. To be a first-class shot is not a necessary condition to fit a man for service abroad, but it is a piece of information very valuable to the War Office.

*Mr. McCRAE: Surely the right hon. Gentleman does not intend to send the Volunteers on service abroad?

[No Answer was returned.]

Cavalry Depôts.

*Colonel LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state where the two cavalry depots, referred to at page 16 of his Memorandum relating to Army Estimates for 1905–6, will be located.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The cavalry barracks now at Canterbury will be utilised to form one depot barracks. The Army Council desires to establish a cavalry depot in the Midlands or the North of England. The position of these barracks will depend upon the extent of the facilities which are offered by the authorities in the different localities which are considered to be suitable for the purpose.

Army Reorganisation.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Army scheme proposed by him has been abandoned; whether the proposed reduction of fourteen battalions has been given up, and these battalions are in future to be recruited on the short-service system; whether that short-service system will be applied exclusively to these battalions; and whether he has any communication to make to the House with reference to his own position in the War Office in reference to these matters.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The reply to the first paragraph of the Question is in the negative. As I have explained on previous occasions, the introduction of the scheme of short-service enlistment has been necessarily postponed until a sufficient number of men have been enlisted for nine years service with the colours to provide the men necessary for the Indian drafts. This condition has not yet been fulfilled. It has never been proposed to reduce fourteen battalions unless and until an equal number of other battalions equally efficient has been created.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Then is the Arnold-Forster scheme in a state of suspended animation?

[No Answer was returned.]

Lord Milner and the South African War Stores.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware of the statement of Colonel Morgan that, in the presence of General Lyttelton and another, Lord Milner refused to make any further purchases of supplies from the Army stores for repatriation; whether he is aware that this refusal of Lord Milner was based on the ground that the making of these purchases would not be fair to the local merchants; whether this action on the part of Lord Milner had the previous sanction or subsequent ratification of the Colonial Office; what communications, if any, passed between Lord Milner and the Colonial Office with reference to this action of Lord Milner, whereby the main source of custom for the Army stores, to the loss of the taxpayer, was shut off; and whether he will lay these communications upon the Table.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington): I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer given by the Secretary of State for War to the similar Question addressed to him on the subject. I have already informed the hon. Member for Northampton on the 29th of June † that no such correspondence took place.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL said his Question was to the Secretary for the Colonies. Did the right hon. Gentleman communicate with Lord Milner on the subject?

Mr. LYTTELTON: I have said that there was no correspondence.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will the right hon. Gentleman now inquire? By the way, where is Lord Milner now?

[No Answer was returned.]

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† See page 545.

Insolvency of Mr. Van Rensburg.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that at the first meeting, in Heidelberg, of creditors in the insolvent estate of Mr. Van Rensburg, who recently resigned his seat as a nominated member of the Inter-Colonial Council, debts to the amount of £51,000 were proved, and included in the list was a sum of £20,000 due to the Colonial Treasurer of the Transvaal; and can he say for what purpose this loan was made.

MR. LYTTELTON: I have not yet received the information, but hope to do so shortly.

MR. WHITLEY: I first put the Question down eleven days ago and then postponed it for a week at the right hon. Gentleman's request. Surely it does not take all this time to get the information. Has the right hon. Gentleman cabled for it? Shall I repeat the Question on Thursday?

MR. LYTTELTON: I cannot say if I shall have the information by then.

De Beers Diamond Company and Convict Labour.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a system exists of hiring out for various terms of servitude persons convicted of offences in Cape Colony to the De Beers Diamond Company at the rate of 2d. per diem; and, if so, by what authority and under what regulations does the system exist, and does the Colonial Office accept any responsibility in the matter.

MR. LYTTELTON: The Ministers of the Cape Colony have stated that the system has legislative sanction under Section 52 of the Colonial Act No. 23 of 1888. The matter is one entirely within the control of the responsible Government and Legislature of the Cape Colony.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS: Do I understand that the Secretary of State here accepts no responsibility?

MR. LYTTELTON: I cannot go further than my Answer. It is the act of the responsible Government of the Cape Colony.

Financial Dispute with New Zealand.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his remonstrances with the New Zealand Government against their action in not refunding a large sum which was paid by mistake in New Zealand, being legally and properly chargeable in this country, have had any affect; and, if not, if he is in a position to take any further action.

MR. LYTTELTON: The New Zealand Government are of opinion that the estate duty to which the hon. Member refers was properly charged and collected in the colony, and have hitherto declined to adopt legislation for the purpose of obviating future difficulties of the same kind. I am, however, communicating again with the New Zealand Government on the subject.

Income-Tax on Easter Offerings.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state by what section of the Income-Tax Acts income-tax is imposed on Easter offerings; and whether, seeing that the amounts of these Easter offerings are frequently less than £20, he will introduce a Bill this session to secure that the free gift of a congregation to a clergyman shall not be subject to any claim for income-tax upon it.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Easter offerings, when of the nature of Ecclesiastical Dues, are assessable under Schedule A, Section 60, of the Act of 1842, Rule No. II. (2). When of a voluntary character they are chargeable under Schedule E, and the First Rule in Section 146 of the Act of 1842. The Answer to the last clause of the Question is in the negative.

MR. COGHILL asked whether for income-tax purposes there should not be a distinction made between payments for services rendered and a free gift.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I must decline to answer any general Question of the kind in connection with a particular Question. Any Answer I might give in these circumstances might be misleading.

MR. COGHILL: Supposing in any year a congregation refused these offerings, could the clergyman or the Chancellor of the Exchequer enforce their payment?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That does not really arise out of the Question. It is quite obvious that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has no business to enforce payments by congregations.

University College Grants.

MR. WHITLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has taken any steps to give effect to the Report of the Committee on University College Grants; and if he is in a position to state the constitution of the Advisory Committee recommended in the Report.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The various Universities and colleges concerned were invited to comment on the suggestions contained in the Report of the Committee in question. Their replies have only recently been received and are now under consideration. I hope shortly to be able to make an announcement on the subject.

MR. WHITLEY: In view of the advanced position of the financial year, will the right hon. Gentleman give us some opportunity of discussing this matter if he does not intend to carry out the recommendations of the Committee?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That is a Question which should be addressed to the Prime Minister, concerning as it does the arrangement of the business of the House. But, personally, I should be glad of an opportunity of hearing the opinions of hon. Members on the subject.

Irish-born Americans and the Aliens Bill.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General, in regard to the Aliens Bill, whether he can now say on what clause he intends to move the promised Amendment to provide for the exemption of Irish-born American citizens from the alien immigrant provision; and whether he will submit the wording of the Amendment to members of the Irish Party.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): This matter has been under my consideration. I think the Amendment might be introduced into Clause 2 or Clause 8. I shall be happy to confer with any member of the hon. Gentleman's Party, but I wish it to be understood I do not contemplate a general exemption. I think it would be possible, without varying the general principle of the Bill, to prepare an Amendment which would meet the case of persons desirous of visiting their relatives in the United Kingdom.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): That is not the only case aimed at. There is also the case of those—a very numerous class—who wish to end their days among their own people.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I had not that case in contemplation, but am prepared to confer.

MR. FLYNN: Will the right hon. and learned Gentleman, in view of the fact that the Bill is to be closured by compartments, let us have the Amendment at the earliest possible moment?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Certainly.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is it proposed to confine the Amendment to Irish-born Americans, or to extend it to British-born people generally?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I do not propose to limit the Amendment to the case of Irish-born subjects revisiting their country.

Motor Scorchers—Police Warning.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the fact that it is the habit of the police, in accordance with instructions given them, to warn such offenders as are evidently breaking the law through want of knowledge, he will consider the desirability of instructing the police to warn offending drivers of motors should the offence be not sufficiently grave to warrant a prosecution.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) I fear I am not prepared either to accept the general proposition as to police warnings which the hon. Member suggests, or to give the police any further instructions as to warning the drivers of motor-cars. A constable's duty is to stop cars whose drivers are breaking the law, and to warn the drivers that they will be reported. The constable then reports the case to the higher police authorities, and it is they who decide, upon the facts reported, whether proceedings shall be taken against the offenders. The fact that the driver has been called on to stop and told that he will be reported ought to be sufficient warning in most of the cases where a prosecution is not considered necessary.

Traction-Engine Traffic on Highways.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he proposes to take any steps to enable highway authorities either to exercise greater control over traction-engine traffic on roads, particularly when weather conditions render the roads specially liable to damage, or to recover from the owners of engines the cost of making good such damage, as recommended by the Departmental Committee on Highways, 1903.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Legislation would be necessary to give effect to either of these suggestions, and I cannot hold out any prospect of introducing a Bill on the subject at the present time.

Alleged Preferential Railway Rates at Swansea.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether, seeing that the Board recently received a deputation appointed by the Swansea and District Freighters' Association, and that the members of the deputation complained that the Great Western Railway Company had, for some time, carried coal to Swansea for shipment and for patent-fuel making at 6½d. a ton less than they charged for coal carried by them for use in manufactories and works in Swansea and the Swansea Valley, and delivered by them at Swansea Valley Junction, Landore, and Swansea, and alleged that the said railway company have been guilty of an undue preference under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, the Board will, in accordance with the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, Section 31, Sub-section (4), forthwith submit to Parliament a Report of the complaints made by the deputation and the result of the proceedings taken in relation to such complaints, together with such observations as the Board thinks fit to make thereon.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Reports which the Board of Trade have submitted to Parliament under Section 31 of the Act of 1888 have as a rule covered the complaints made during some period of time—in ordinary course another Report will be issued next year; it has not been the practice of the Department to present a special Report on a particular case, and I do not think it would be a convenient course to adopt. I may say that the Board used their best endeavours to bring about an amicable settlement of the complaint referred to, but unfortunately without success. As the allegation is one of undue preference the complainants would appear to have a remedy at law. More than this could not be said if the Department made a special Report.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: Will the hon. Gentleman allow the deputation to have a copy of the transcript of the shorthand note taken at the interview.

Mr. BONAR LAW: I will consider that.

West Sussex Education Authority—Pupil-Teachers' Agreements.

Mr. BULL (Hammersmith): On behalf of the hon. Member for West Ham, North, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that the West Sussex education authority are requiring the guardians of pupil-teachers to enter into an agreement under which pupil-teachers, on completing apprenticeship in the county, are to become and remain teachers in the elementary schools of the county until the authority allow them to accept appointments elewhere or to cease teaching; and whether, having regard to the injury to the schools consequent on such restrictive regulations, the Board will decline to recognise such pupil-teachers as part of the school staff.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir William Anson, Oxford University): I have seen what purports to be a copy of the agreements in question. As these agreements are to be made by or on behalf of persons under age, their legality may be called in question. In other respects I am not prepared to express an opinion on a form of agreement which may be subject to modifications of which I am not aware.

Sanitation in the Island of Lewis.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state when he proposes to lay upon the Table of the House the Report of the Adviser of the Local Government Board for Scotland on the insanitary condition of the Island of Lewis.

The LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton): I propose to lay the Report on the Table without delay.

School Grants in the Island of Lewis.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will explain under what circumstances grants have been paid to the numerous public schools in the Island of Lewis, Ross-shire, which are clearly shown by the recently-issued reports of the parish officers of health to fall short of the sanitary standard required under Article 17 (c), Scotch Code, under which school premises are required to be healthy, well lighted, cleaned, warmed, drained, and ventilated; and will he state whether school inspectors are required to report in respect of these points before grants are paid.

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: In administering the Article of the Code quoted by the hon. Member, the Scotch Education Department have regard to the reports of their inspectors on the conditions of the schools, which necessarily take into account all local circumstances. The reports to which the hon. Member apparently refers are reports made to the local authority with a view to determine what is required to put the schools in a proper state from the health point of view, and till there has been opportunity to give effect to the requirements of the local authority the Department would not feel justified in reducing the grants to the schools.

Lemreway School, Island of Lewis—Water Supply and Drainage.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether he is aware that, although eighty pupils are on the register of Lemreway School, in the parish of Lochs, Island of Lewis, Ross-shire, the average weekly attendance since the middle of December last has been only twenty-six, owing to epidemics; and, seeing that both the water supply and drainage are bad, will he consider the expediency of calling for a report from Dr. Cameron, the medical officer of health for the parish, on the subject, with a view to the defects being remedied.

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The Local Government Board propose to ask for a report from Dr. Cameron on the subject.

Fever at Balallan, Island of Lewis.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether he is aware that Dr. Cameron, the medical officer of health for the parish of Lochs, Island of Lewis, Ross-shire, states in his report to the medical officer of health for the county that, being called upon to make inquiry in regard to two outbreaks of fever in the Balallan district, one of typhus and the other typhoid, he came to the conclusion that the outbreak was due to the generally insanitary conditions prevalent; and, seeing that there are 108 pupils on the Balallan public school register, will he state whether it is proposed to take any action to protect the lives of these children.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I am aware that the outbreaks of fever referred to by the hon. Member are attributed to the insanitary conditions generally prevalent in the district, which affect not only the children on the school register but the population at large. The matter engages the anxious consideration of the Secretary for Scotland and the Local Government Board, who would be in a better position to remedy the evils complained of if the Congested Districts Amendment Bill now before the House became law.

MR. WEIR: Will that Bill be proceeded with this session or will it be shunted as during the last four years?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I hope it will be proceeded with this session. The shunting will depend on the action of hon. Members opposite.

Alleged Boycotting of Jews in Limerick.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many Jews were compelled to leave Limerick owing to being boycotted; and whether he has any official information as to the condition of the Jews remaining in Limerick at present.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers, may I ask if his attention has been called to the fact that at the Summer Assizes at Limerick next Thursday, there is no criminal case from that city to go before the Judge.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): Yes, I believe so. I am informed that thirty-seven members of the Jewish persuasion have left Limerick since the agitation against their methods of business commenced. Of the 121 who remain, about a fourth are in poor circumstances, but the remainder are stated to be comfortably off.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): Is not the treatment to which the Jews have been subjected due to their charging excessive rates of interest?

MR. SLOAN: And do not those who are in poor circumstances attribute their condition to the boycotting and intimidation to which they have been subjected?

Mineral Deposits at Annaghmore, County Cork.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what is the nature of the report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction regarding the mineral possibilities of the townland of Annaghmore, county Cork; and what steps were taken by the Department's engineer in order to ascertain the mineral character of the land.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Department's mining engineer reported that the geological formation of the townland was carboniferous slate and shales, and that coal would not be found in the land visited. During the course of his inspection he found carboniferous slates and shales in the pit put down by the owner of Annaghmore, and also in the railway cutting. The report was considered unfavourable and would not justify any further expenditure on the surveying of the lands in question.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what are the total amounts of surplus funds now in the hands of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; whether the Department carry out or are prepared to carry out inspection of lands on which mineral deposits are thought to exist; and, if so, will the Department consider the advisability of procuring a boring drill, with a view to making practical experiments on the lands of Annaghmore, county Cork, and other places where coal deposits are believed to exist.

MR. WALTER LONG: The surplus amounts approximately to £237,000. The actual amount could only be found by ascertaining the market value of the securities in which the funds are invested. The Department undertakes inspections of lands on which minerals are believed to exist, but they do not engage in prospecting work and do not consider it desirable to procure a boring drill. I have stated in answer to the previous Question the result of the survey of the lands referred to.

Mr. FLYNN: But surely the right hon. Gentleman could point out to the Department that it was its obvious duty to undertake this work.

Attacks on Clergymen in Dublin.

Mr. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Rev. Macredy, of St. Mark's Church, Dublin, when visiting on the 7th March last was assailed in the street, and that in April and May last, when the Rev. Denny was visiting a sick woman at night, the house was surrounded by a number of persons to the annoyance of the sick person; and whether, in view of complaints of Protestant clergymen of repeated assaults, he proposes to take any, and, if any, what steps to put a stop to such conduct.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The facts are as stated. In the case of the attack by boys on the Rev. Mr. Macredy, the offenders were made amenable by the police. In the Rev. Mr. Denny's case the police traced the offenders, but the rev. gentleman wished that no prosecution should take place. In that case the parish priest publicly condemned the conduct complained of, and a good effect was produced in the locality. The special efforts of the police have been directed to this matter and will not be relaxed.

Newry Public Servant's Grievance.

Mr. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a man named James McAlorum, residing at Donaghmore, Newry, employed as surface-man, was informed by letter from the assistant county surveyor on the 25th May that his services had been dispensed with; that McAlorum wrote to the county surveyor asking the reason of his dismissal, but received no reply; and whether, in view of the fact that this man has had twenty-four years service, he will order an inquiry to be made into the case.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Local Government Board have ascertained that this man was dismissed for inattention to duty. The Board have no power to hold an inquiry in the matter except on the application of the county or district council concerned.

Mr. SLOAN: But in view of the man's long period of service cannot something be done? Is it not the fact that he was dismissed without any knowledge of the charge against him and without having an opportunity of defending himself.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I cannot say; but even if it be so it does not alter the fact that he having been dismissed for dereliction of duty, the Local Government Board have no power to go behind the back of the local authority and order an inquiry.

Ballynease National Schools.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the Minute of the Board of National Education dealing with the proposed official amalgamation of the Ballynease boys' and girls' national schools, dated June, 1904, under the management of the Rev. P. M'Namee, P.P., Bellaghy, Derry.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I beg to refer to the reply which I gave to a similar Question on May 29th.†

Galway Assizes Jury Panel—Alleged Reintroduction of Coercion Practices.

Mr. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has seen a copy of the special jury panel for Galway Summer Assizes; whether this panel has been prepared or the jurors summoned under the provisions of the Criminal Law Procedure (Ireland) Act; if he can state when this procedure was last resorted to; and whether persons charged with agrarian offences in the county will be tried by a jury selected from this panel.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlvii., 93

MR. WALTER LONG: I have not seen the panel referred to. The names of the jurors on the panel have been taken by the sheriff from the special jurors' book in the ordinary way, as provided by the Jury Acts. Orders have been obtained from the King's Bench Division under the third Section of the Criminal Law and Procedure Act directing that certain cases shall be tried before special jurors. The last case of the kind occurred in July, 1903, and there were four cases in the preceding year. The jurors to try the cases named in the Orders, which are generally of an agrarian nature, will be chosen by ballot from the panel.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Is it not four years since these provisions were put in operation in Ireland, and is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Recorder of Galway the other day declared in his charge to the grand jury that there was nothing unusual in the condition of the county. Under these circumstances does the right hon. Gentleman think it right to inaugurate a *régime* of coercion in the county?

MR. WALTER LONG: The same course was taken in July, 1903.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Then I will ask the Prime Minister whether, seeing that fifty or sixty men will be tried at the Galway Assizes under Section 3 of the Coercion Act, that this section has not been in operation for two years, and that this seems to be the inauguration of a coercion *régime*, he will give an opportunity to move an Address to the Crown under Section 5 for the revocation of the proclamation of the county under Section 3.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have not had the opportunity of making myself acquainted with all the circumstances, but I understand there has been no new proclamation under the Act, parts of Ireland having been under the section for years past.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: But it has not been used.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is a law against crime, but if there is no crime it is not enforced. An Address to the Crown might be a proper mode of procedure if the situation were newly created. There seems to me an impropriety in taking such a course while the trials are proceeding, especially as the opportunity for comment and criticism arises in the discussion of Irish Estimates.

MR. JOHN REDMOND pointed out that, according to the Act, if the House presented an Address to the Crown the proclamation would not continue in force. Would not the right hon. Gentleman reconsider his decision?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not deny that if the House of Parliament did present an Address to the Crown it would put an end to the particular proclamation, but it would not be expedient to consider that course while the trials were going on.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Very well, at the end of Questions I shall ask leave to move the adjournment.

Bryanstown Boundary Dispute.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the surveyor recently sent by the Land Judge's Court to survey boundaries on the estate of J. G. Musters, at Bryanstown, county Longford, entered upon and insisted on marking into the landlord's demesne portions of unreclaimed bog belonging to a man named John Murphy, of Cornollen, who has a title to these lands; and, if so, will a direction be given that, pending the decision of the County Court Judge, this map be not used by the Court for purposes of sale of this estate.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am informed that no recent survey of any of the lands referred to has been made in connection with any proceedings in the Land Judge's Court.

Toneymore Grazing Farm, County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any steps have yet been taken by the Estates Commissioners for the acquiring of the large grazing farm at Toneymore, near Granard, county Longford, with a view to its sub-division amongst the tenants evicted and otherwise in that district.

MR. WALTER LONG: No proceedings for the sale of this farm appear to have come before the Commissioners, but they cannot give a definite reply unless the name of the owner be stated.

Crime in Limerick.

MR. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Judges at the Assizes held in Limerick for some years past have congratulated the Grand Jury on the peaceable condition of the city; has the County Court Judge done likewise; how many pairs of white gloves have been presented to the Judges of both Courts in Limerick for the past five years; and whether he has any reports of the police authorities on the condition of that city; and, if so, will he state their purport.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am glad to say that the facts are generally as stated in the first two inquiries. White gloves have been presented to the County Court Judge on nine occasions within the past five years, but none have been presented to Judges of Assize during that period. The condition of Limerick city in regard to crime is satisfactory.

MR. JOYCE: How about Belfast?

Agricultural Experiments in County Cavan.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of experiments under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act which have been carried out in county Cavan for the year ending June 30th, 1905, giving the lowest valuation of any holding upon which experiments were tried, with the nature of the experiments; and, further, whether the holdings of agricultural labourers have been used for any of the experiments.

MR. WALTER LONG: The number of experiments was thirty, namely—four to test the inoculation of vetches with nitro-culture; five to test the similar inoculation of clover; five to test varieties of potato; and sixteen to test the effect of sprouting seed potatoes before planting. The lowest valuation of any holding employed was £6 5s. No agricultural labourer's holding was used.

Mullingar Asylum.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to statements made at a meeting of the Longford County Council to the effect that patients per head in Mullingar Asylum in Ireland cost from 45 to 75 per cent. more than in the Chester Asylum in England; and whether, in view of the capitation allowance in these cases, he will take some steps to have the Government grant in aid for asylums in Ireland increased so as to lessen the burden on the taxpayer.

MR. WALTER LONG: The comparison drawn in the first part of the Question is inaccurate. The figures upon which this comparison is based are inclusive of building expenditure in the case of Mullingar Asylum, but are exclusive of such expenditure in the case of Chester Ayslum. The reply to the second inquiry is in the negative.

Waterford Bridge.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an arrangement has been come to whereby the sum of about £35,000, part of the sum of £93,000 which was lent for railway development in the South of Ireland, and which has since been repaid to the Treasury, will be made available for the creation of a free bridge in Waterford in place of the old toll bridge which now exists in that city, and which is the last of its kind in Great Britain or Ireland.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The sum of £93,000 was a loan made by the Treasury on mortgage of the Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lismore Railway, and was subsequently repaid to the Treasury by the Fishguard Company in respect of the sale of the Treasury interests and in discharge of the principal and interest on the loan. Representations have been made to me by various parties in favour of a Parliamentary grant in aid of railway connection in Cork, as proposed by the Junction Railways Bill now in Committee, and of the bridge at Waterford. I have been in frequent consultation with the Treasury on this matter, and they have decided to waive the objection which was considered to be fatal to a grant in 1901, and to ask Parliament at a convenient opportunity to vote a sum of £93,000 in aid of the two proposals mentioned. It is intended to vote a sum not exceeding £60,000 as a contribution to the cost of the scheme for the junction at Cork provided the Bill now before the Committee receives the approval of Parliament, and subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions which have been communicated to the Chairman of the Committee. The balance of the Vote (£33,000) will be made available for the bridge at Waterford, and I cannot undertake to ask the Treasury to increase the grant on this project to £35,000.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND thanked the right hon. Gentleman for his statement, and asked if it were intended to bring in a Supplementary Estimate this year or to make provision in next year's Estimates. Also would the Treasury take steps to bind its successors in the matter.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he did not propose to bring in a Supplementary Estimate this year. As to what was done next year must depend on the circumstances of the time. He was afraid it was not in his power to bind hypothetical successors — possibly the hon. Gentleman himself would be able to exert sufficient influence with them to secure the fulfilment of his desires.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: As long as we have a clear undertaking by both the Irish Office and the Treasury I shall be satisfied.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Our views are embodied in the communications sent to the Chairman of the Committee.

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I hope this will not reduce the Sinking Fund.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): Is there any Treasury Minute earmarking this particular money for the purpose?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There is a record of our decision on the subject. There is no power to ear-mark any special fund.

The De L'Herault's Estate.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that a fund, representing the De L'Herault intestate estate, was transferred by the Irish Government to the Crown's Nominee's Security Account, administered under the direction of the Treasury, when it had been for many years in the hands of the Irish Government, and when accounts of its state and management had been refused to the representatives of the widow of the intestate to whom the money had originally belonged; whether he is aware that the solicitor of the representatives of Madame De L'Herault, the widow of the intestate, on application to the Treasury for an account of this estate, received in reply a refusal of his request on the ground that his clients had no claim or title to this money or any part thereof; and whether, having regard to the circumstances of the transfer of this money from the Irish to the English Treasury when demands for an account of its management had become pressing in Ireland, and the circumstances of its management, he will direct an account of the state of this fund to be furnished to the solicitor of the representatives of Madame De L'Herault.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.): The balance of the estate in question was transferred to the Crown's Nominee Account as is usual in such cases. It is against the established practice to furnish outside parties with detailed accounts of sums so transferred.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: What was the date of the transfer?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: April, 1899.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when the moneys of an intestate estate, known as the De L'Herault Estate, on which in 1879 a claim was made by the Crown on the widow of the intestate, who thereupon transferred to the Irish Treasury a sum of £3,183 3s. 7d. India stock and £1,411 5s. 6d. cash for interest thereon at £5 per cent. from the death of her husband in 1869, were transferred from the Irish Treasury to the English Treasury, and what were the circumstances under which this transfer took place; whether he is aware that that transfer was made after many applications from the personal representations of Madame De L'Herault, to whom these moneys had originally belonged, for their restoration, and that when an account of the state of the fund was furnished so far back as 1897, at the request of those representations, it was found that moneys which, in 1879, when handed to the Irish Treasury amounted to £4,504 had only increased after eighteen years by a sum of £1,000; and whether he will, on the part of the Irish Government, direct that a full account of the state of the fund and its management till transferred from the Irish to the English Government be tendered to the representatives of Madame De L'Herault, having regard to the fact that since 1897 no account has been furnished.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): As the hon. Member must, I think, be aware from the communication made to him on December 31st last, by the then Chief Secretary, Madame De L'Herault received from the Crown all she was legally entitled to, namely, one-half of her husband's personalty, and in addition, by grace of the Crown, the interest of the remaining half of the personalty for many years, as well as all her husband's realty. In addition, the present claimant, who is no blood relation of Victor De L'Herault, deceased, nor one of his next of kin, but merely the sister-in-law of Madame De L'Herault, was paid by grace of the Crown a gratuity of £500 in full satisfaction of all her claims. The stock was in April, 1899, transferred to the Crown Nominee's Security Account. Accounts were furnished to the Treasury at the time and were found to be accurate, and there is no reason to re-open them. The hon. Member apparently fails to recollect that Madame De L'Herault, until her death in July, 1890, received all the interest of the fund, which accounts for the small accumulation.

Sneem Postal Arrangements.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can now make any statement as to the proposed improvement in postal facilities, whereby letters may be delivered at Sneem at an earlier hour than is the case at present.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): As I informed the hon. Member by letter on the 28th ultimo, the mail car from Kenmare was on the average about twenty minutes late in arrival at Sneem during the month of May, the delay being due to the irregular running of the goods train which conveys the mails to Headford Junction. The attention of the railway company has been drawn to the matter, and I hope some improvement will result.

The Royal Canal.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he has any power to direct the Midland Great Western Railway Company, as owners of the Royal Canal, to clean up and keep this waterway in a condition fit for ordinary traffic; and, if so, will he take steps to see that the canal in the vicinity of Longford is cleaned immediately.

MR. BONAR LAW: The Board of Trade have no powers which would enable them to take the action desired by the hon. Member, but I am informed that the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland act as Commissioners for the control of the Royal Canal under an Act of 1818, and that as a result of a very recent inspection of the canal they have called upon the company to put the waterway, including the Longford branch of it, in a proper condition.

The Unemployed Bill.

Mr. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state definitely whether he will proceed with the Unemployed Bill this session; and, if not, will he convene an early autumn session for the purpose of placing the Bill on the Statute-book.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot make any definite statement on the Unemployed Bill. It depends on the general course of business.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked whether the Unemployed Bill was to be considered on its merits or whether its further progress was to depend on the progress of other measures.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The progress of this Bill, as of other Government business, depends upon the method in which Government business is treated by the Members of the House. It must be evident—I do not say it in a critical spirit, but in a mathematical spirit—that, if large portions of time are taken up with discussions, which may or may not be important, upon other measures, it is impossible for every Gentleman to get the measure passed which is nearest to his heart. If, for instance, the hon. Member occupies Government time as he did last night between twelve o'clock and half-past three he can hardly complain if some difficulty is thrown in the way of the Bill which he desires to pass.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: It was not Government time after twelve o'clock, and I did not interfere with the progress of Government business. I desire to ask whether the Unemployed Bill is not to have an opportunity of passing equally with the Aliens Bill, and whether a day will be given to the Committee stage of the Unemployed Bill before the Aliens Bill is again taken.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member must know that if the Resolution on the Paper passes, and I hope it will, it will be impossible to comply with his request.

Mr. LEVY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman considered the Unemployed Bill to be of less importance than the Redistribution Resolution.

[No Answer was returned.]

Ministerial Pledges.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in veiw of the explicit and definite pledge given by him earlier in the session, that in the event of Money Bills being taken after twelve o'clock at night he would give notice at the Table, and that the failure to give notice of the intention to take the Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill on the previous night was a departure from that very definite pledge, he will in future, for the convenience of the House, see that proper notice is given.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said, so far as his memory served him, the pledge referred only to the Report stage of Money Resolutions.

Mr. DALZIEL said that if the right hon. Gentleman would refresh his memory he would find that in Answer to a Question put by himself he did give the pledge referred to.

Unanswered Questions—Lord Curzon.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL asked if Lord Curzon had informed the Home Government that unless certain modifications were introduced into the Order recently issued regarding the Military Command in India he would resign, and what answer, if any, had been returned. Further he desired to know what explanation the Secretary for India had to give o his failure to have the Answer to this Question circulated with the Votes on Friday last, seeing that under the rules it was his absolute duty, in cases where starred Questions were not answered—as was the case with this Question last Thursday—to send the Answer for circulation.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think this Question comes within the purview of the rule which allows Questions of urgency to be put after five minutes to three.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND, Member for Waterford, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the putting into operation in the county of Galway of Section 3 of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, after an interval of some years, and without any justification having been shown for such a course;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen:—

The Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until the Evening Sitting, this day.

NEW BILLS.

VALUATION (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Irish Valuation Acts," presented by Mr. Joseph Devlin; supported by Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. William McKillop, Mr. Kilbride, and Mr. Field; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 259.]

CANALS (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Canals," presented by Sir John Brunner; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 260.]

ALIENS [EXPENSES].

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House will, To-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of the salary and remuneration of any officers, inspectors, or persons appointed under any Act of the present session to amend the Law with regard to Aliens, and of any expenses incurred in carrying such Act into effect (King's recommendation signified)."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 259; Noes, 141. (Division List No. 239.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. HonSirH
Bagot, Capt Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.HnA.J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H F.(Middlesex
Bowles, T. Gibson(King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar)
Campbell, Rt. Hn.JA(Glasgow
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn. JA(Worc
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir TR(TowerHamlets
Dickson, Chas. Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir J. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt Hn. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir WilliamTheodore
Dyke, Rt Hn Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, RtHnSir J. Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs

Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir RobertPenros
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S.W.)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, Henry D(Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir Jas (Staffords. NW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,JW (Sheffield,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd,Tottenham
Hozier, Hn.James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt.Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Law, AndrewBonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W(Mile End)
Lee, ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick,N.S.

Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long,RtHnWalter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W.F.
Maxwell, Rt.Hn.Sir HE(Wigt'n
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thomson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, RtHnSir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Mitchell, William Burnley)
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montague Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm, Robt. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, RtHn. Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye

Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G Stopford-
Samuel, SirH. S. (Limehouse)
Saunderson, RtHnColEdw. J.
Seely, Chas Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj.JEB(Isle of Wight)
Sharpe, Wm. Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H(Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, HC(North'mbTyneside
Smith, Rt.HnJParker(Lanarks
Spencer, Sir E (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, RtHn.JG (Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G.E.(Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.
Wodehouse, RtHnER(Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thos. (Derbyshire)

Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson

Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, NE(York,NRWhitby)
Caldwell, James

Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P, C.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir FrancisH(Maidstone
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Gladstone, RtHnHerb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hutchinson, Dr Charles Fredk
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P. (CavanW
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J, F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. ((Sligo, North)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John(Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Rose, Charles Day
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thos (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. HnCR(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R
Toulmin, George
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J(York, W. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Trevelyan and Mr. Runciman.

CHURCHES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): Sir, in rising to move the Second Reading of this Bill, I think it would be desirable that I should explain some of the main provisions of the Bill, but also it would suit the convenience of the House if, in view of negotiations and arrangements and conversations which have taken place, I should also indicate some of the alterations which the Government are prepared to consider in the terms of the Bill as they now stand. I am quite aware that perhaps, strictly speaking, that is not entirely in accordance with the rules of a Second Reading speech, but I am sure everyone in the House will regard it as eminently desirable for the convenience of those interested in the question. May I remind hon. Members who are not thoroughly well versed in this Scotch ecclesiastical position, of some of the circumstances which led up to the condition of affairs necessitating, in the judgment of the Government, the introduction of this Bill. Prior to 1900, in addition to the Church of Scotland, there were in Scotland two large Presbyterian Churches, known as the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. In 1900 a union was arranged between those two bodies. The large majority of the Free Church was in favour of the union, but there was a small protesting minority, and the union having taken place in October, 1900, it was followed by an action, raised at the instance of the minority, to have it found and declared that the union was *ultra vires* of the Free Church, and that legal effect could not be given to it. On the other hand, the majority took proceedings in Court with a view to having it determined that the minority, who had retained some few of the churches, some twenty-six or twenty-seven, were no longer members of the Free Church and ought to be evicted from the churches and houses they then possessed. Judgment was given in favour of those supporting the union in the Scotch Courts, but in the House of Lords this judgment was reversed, and two passages from the judgment I should like to refer to as they bear upon the terms of the Bill and the discussions we are now entering upon. The House of Lords declared that—

> "The association of a body of Christians, calling themselves the United Free Church, has no right, title, or interest in any part of the whole land, property, and sums of money."

which, to put it shortly, were the property of the Free Church as at the date of the union. On the other hand, they declared that—

> "The adults who constituted the Free Church of Scotland are, and lawfully represent, the said Free Church, and are entitled to have the said lands, property, and funds applied.—"

I direct special attention to the words I am now to read—

> "according to the terms of the trusts upon which they are respectively held for the good of themselves and those adhering to and associated with them."

That judgment affected a considerable sum of money, amounting to between, roughly speaking, £1,250,000 and £2,000,000, and hereditable property to a considerable extent also. The corresponding judgment pronounced in the House of Lords dealt precisely with some four churches, though I believe the result, if it had been adverse to the minority, would have decided the question as to all the churches they possessed. Following upon that a great deal of litigation took place in Scotland with regard to the congregational property which was in the possession of the united body, the majority; and which had not been, in point of fact, technically included in the part, made the subject of discussion and adjudication by the House of Lords sitting in this matter in its judicial and not in its administrative capacity. Ultimately, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire and report upon the subject, and they reported, as all Scotch Members are aware, and many English Members also, in April of this year, recommending that the situation which had been created was one which required Parliamentary interference and that that interference should take the shape of the appointment of an Executive Commission with power to deal with the property in question and the subjects in dispute between the two Churches. In particular they reported that, in the use and the administration of the whole or any part of the property, the first consideration should be the adequate provision for the purposes for which the funds were raised, but, where the minority, the smaller body, were unable to execute the trust, the Commission should have power to transfer the property to the United Free Church, but no such transference should take place except upon equitable conditions, and especially upon the due performance of the trust being secured. The Report said that provision should be made for the equipment of the Free Church as a Christian Free Church according to the standard which prevails in the old Presbyterian Church of Scotland, proceeding upon a full estimate of its numbers and making allowance in determining the amount of allowance for such equipment for any unfavourable circumstances arising out of the poverty of the congregations or otherwise. Then followed several recommendations which I do not think I need trouble the House by reading, but which I refer to to point out that all of them, dealing with congregational property, mission funds, and general trust property, had this in view, according to the judgment of the Commission, that provision should be made for what they call the future development of the Free Church, that being, they thought, that the actual state of the Free Church at the precise moment when the Executive Commission came to discharge its functions should not stereotype the matter, but that some consideration should be allowed for the future development and growth of the smaller body.

The Report of the Commission was considered by the Government, and, as a result, the present Bill was introduced The Bill, I agree, differs in some respects from the recommendations of the Commission, and in some respects probably will be in favour of one body and in other respects in favour of the other, but the reasons for these departures were to a large extent found in the development and discussion which had taken place upon the Report of the Commission after it was issued and before the Bill was actually introduced into this House. I think I can probably, with the greatest advantage, explain the Government position if I ask hon. Members kindly to turn to the copy of the Bill. The first section, which has three sub-sections, deals with the appointment of the Commission, and in Sub-section 1 it is provided that the Commission established under this Act shall allocate between the Free Church and the United Free Church the property in question as defined by this Act in such manner as appears to the Commission fair and equitable having regard to all the circumstances of the case, but subject to the provisions of this Act. Then, as the House is aware, in accordance with the promise I made in introducing the Bill, the names of the Commissioners were to be communicated to the House. That was done, I think, some ten days ago, the Commissioners being the three gentlemen who acted as members of the Elgin Commission, Lord Elgin, Lord Kinnear, and Sir Ralph Anstruther, with two others added, Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael, and Sir Charles Logan; and I think I may say that the names of the Commissioners have been received in a manner to show that they have the confidence of those interested in this matter.

The Government do not propose to make any alteration of that first sub-section, but with regard to the second sub-section, which provided the method by which the Commission were to ascertain what congregations were to be dealt with as Free Church congregations and what as United Free Church congregations, in view of the meetings and consultations which have taken place, we do propose to consider as to making a change in the terms. The House knows that the Commission were to inquire as to the numbers of the Free Church as at the date of their inquiry, and if they had then a third of what the undivided congregation would have been they were to get the church. Various representations have been made, and as a result of these, the Government are not unwilling to consider this modification, that instead of taking the date of the inquiry as the time at which the Commission actually comes to deal with the case, or the date of the present Act—I do not care which it would have been—we should have been prepared to favourably consider the proposal to go back to the state of things as in 1900. But while that might result, roughly speaking, in the survivors of the 1900 congregation being taken as the basis, it appears to us that the reversal from 1905–6 to 1900 would require careful consideration of what the proportion should be, and whether it is not necessary, as a consequence of that, that the proportion should be reduced. [Cries of "Oh!"] I do not expect that my proposal will meet with universal acceptance on both sides of the House, but that is the attitude of the Government in regard to the matter.

There is a question on that clause. Members and adherents, the House will notice, are both mentioned. We propose to adhere to the inclusion of the adherents for a reason which certainly all who are acquainted with the Highlands will appreciate, where undoubtedly the greater part of the Free Church congregations are situated, and where special views are held as to the time and circumstances when the burden of membership of the Church should be taken up, and, of course, we adhere to the view that the adherents must also be taken into account. It has also been suggested that we should put a clause into the Bill defining an adherent, and while I have not, in the least, a conclusive opinion on that subject, I will tell the House frankly that I am not in favour of it, and for this reason. What we do propose is that the Commissioners, who are all Scotchmen, and all acquainted with the ecclesiastical situation and circumstances of the country, should have absolute and complete power to determine who are members and who are adherents, and we think it will be far better to leave that definition to them than to try to burden the Bill with it. They will, of course, see that no one but *bona fide* members and adherents are taken into account, and if the Bill does not provide—as I think it does—adequately and completely for their having complete power in that matter we are quite willing to make it perfectly plain, and accordingly the view we take in this matter is that we are acting wisely in leaving the Commission full discretion and judgment.

*MR. MCCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): What proportion do you suggest?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The proportion would be, if there should be a change, that instead of a third it should be a fourth. [Cries of "Oh!"] I can assure the House that there are considerations on the other side from those who murmur against my suggestion, which are well worthy of consideration. I do not think it would serve any good purpose on a Second Reading debate to enter into these details. I trust the House will take it that the proposal to make that change has not been made, and that the decision was not arrived at, without having very good reasons for taking these things into account.

Then on the same sub-section there are three lines on the top of page 2—lines 5, 6, and 7,—which run at present as follows—

"With power, however, to make special arrangements where several church buildings are situated in the same neighbourhood, and in any other cases which appear to them" (the Commissioners) "to require exceptional treatment."

That is to say, while a specific rule is laid down in the preceding part of the section governing the general case coming up to 1900, the Commissioners shall have full power to make special arrangements where there are several church buildings, or a church and hall in the same village or parish, or where in any other case there is necessity for exceptional treatment. I understand that those who are advocates of the United Free Church consider that that applies only to cases where there would be allocation to the Free Church. I do not think that is a fair reading of it, and if it be we are quite willing to insert words so as to make it apply to both Churches alike, giving to the Commissioners full discretion in the matter.

I think I have sufficiently explained the considerations which the Government have adopted so far as Sub-section 2 is concerned. Then with regard to Sub-section 3 there are four purposes, the House will notice which are proposed to be dealt with. That is the section which authorises the Commission, passing away from congregational property, to deal with the general property of a church, and to declare how much the smaller body is to get. The sub-section is as follows—

"The Commission shall make adequate provision for the education of the students of the Free Church, for the support of aged and infirm ministers, and of widows and orphans of ministers of that Church, for supplementing congregational contributions towards the support of the ministers of that Church, and for the general purposes of that Church, and shall appropriate for those objects either collectively or severally such of the property to be allocated by them as they think proper."

I think these four purposes naturally divide themselves into two classes, the first class containing the first two, namely, the provision of education for the students of the Free Church, and the provision for the support of aged and infirm ministers, and of the widows and orphans of ministers of that Church. The reason I put these in a separate class is that there are already in the general funds of the Church special funds set apart for colleges and bursaries, and special buildings appropriated for colleges, and, accordingly, there is a fund out of which special provision can be made for anything that is required for the education of Free Church students without trenching on any other fund. In the same way aged and infirm ministers and the widows and orphans of ministers of the Church are provided for by the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, which runs up to £170,000 or £180,000. There is also a widows and orphans' fund, so that there is a special fund out of which the Commission can make adequate provision for the Free Church without trenching at all on any other fund.

With regard to the matter of supplementing the congregational contributions towards the support of the ministers, that stands in a somewhat different position. As the Bill stood in its original form—the form in which it is now in the hands of Members—it would have been in the power of the Commission to take from any funds, whatever their original purpose was, so much as was required to supplement the stipends of the Free Church ministers or to provide the funds necessary for the general purposes of the Church. Further information given since the Bill was introduced—and we have been anxious to get it from those engaged on both sides of the controversy—has satisfied us that there is a larger fund available of what may be called free money than was originally contemplated. I do not think I need trouble the House with the details of it, but shortly they come to this. There is the Sustentation Fund, the Home Mission Fund, the Highlands and Islands Fund, the various special congregational endowments, and what I may call miscellaneous funds, which would amount, using the term in quite a general way, to a free fund of something between £350,000 and £400,000. Then the House will notice that under Sub-section 2 of Section 2 there is power to the Commission, if they think fit, to order that any property other than congregational property allocated to either Church under this Act, shall be burdened with such bond or charge in favour of the other Church as they may direct. Having in view the increase beyond what we thought at the time the Bill was introduced—the increased amount of the free fund—and the negotiations we have had as to the powers of bond, we are of opinion that we can alter Sub-section 3 of the first section which I am dealing with in such a way as certainly to secure that there shall be no diversion of foreign mission funds at all, and I hope and believe no diversion of any special fund to the Free Church at all. But I state unhesitatingly now, that there will be no diversion of the foreign mission funds, and I believe and fully expect that we shall be able to frame the clause so that the free fund, plus the power of bond, will give the Commission an ample fund for anything that may be required to establish the Free Church.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): Not to establish the Free Church?

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: Well, we do not propose to embark on any such enterprise. Perhaps a more fitting expression would be "to give an establishment to the Free Church." I mean, using the language of the Commission literally, to provide an equipment for the Free Church.

Mr. WALLACE (Perth): Does the right hon. Gentleman say that the free fund would embrace the endowments of particular churches?

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: What I meant was that there were, as far as we can judge, some of the churches which would undoubtedly be allocated to the Free Church with their special endowments, and it would be only to that extent. Of course, there is no proposal to divert the endowments of any particular church from that church to any other church. The result of that, of course, would be that the last three lines of Sub-section 3—

> "And shall appropriate for those objects either collectively or severally such of the property to be allocated by them as they think proper."

would be altered so as to be confined altogether, I believe, to the free money. Now I hope the House will agree that these are alterations which, at any rate, show our desire, so far as possible, to meet what we believe to be the justice of the case, and I am quite certain that no objection will be taken to the mode of communicating the proposed changes to the House. Of course, necessarily there will be terms to adjust as to the precise form in which the Bill is to be expressed. I have explained as fairly and precisely as I can all the changes we contemplate.

Mr. BLACK (Banffshire): Has the right hon. Gentleman exhausted the changes?

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: No, there is one matter which is not mentioned in the Bill, which has been the subject of discussion and consideration. The House will notice that in line 11, one of the purposes is—

> "For supplementing congregational contributions towards the support of the ministers of that Church."

It has been suggested that there may be some nodules of Free Church population not large enough to be entitled to the church, and yet for which some provision must be made, and the question has been asked whether those should have supplements towards their congregational contributions. The Bill proposes that supplements should be confined to cases where the Free Church gets the buildings and that those small bodies of the dispersed Free Church people must be provided for by missionaries, on the principle of the ordinary home mission system, who would attend to their spiritual needs.

There is one other matter on which I would like to say a word. Clause 2, Sub-section 1, gives power to the Commission to make temporary orders in regard to any allocation under this Act. It has been suggested that it might be useful if powers were also given to the Commission to make orders for the temporary use of the buildings in the interval before matters are concluded. That involves a modification of the Bill and may be of great service, and I propose that that should be given effect to. I need not trouble the House by going over the powers given to the Commission under Section 2. The purpose is to give them full powers to make the orders, as suggested by the Elgin Commission, authoritative by executive authority, and to give a final judgment which shall not be reviewable or subject to suspension in any Court of law. If the parties do not agree to these orders it may be necessary to go into the Courts of law to get execution. There will be no power to review or to reconsider the judgment—it will be merely a power to see that the order of the Commission shall be carried into effect. Clause 3 deals with the constitution of the Commission. The full measure of the importance of that has been given to the House already when the Bill was issued.

Appropriately, in connection with Clause 4, which deals with the property, one very large question has been raised, and that is whether sums of money derived or to be derived from legacies left under these circumstances, where the will or trust deeds were executed before the date of the union, but did not come into operation until after the union, in respect that the testator only died after that date—whether these legacies are to be made subject to the disposal of the Commission. The consideration of both sets of circumstances as to how they should be dealt with are, I confess, weighty, and the question is not at all free from difficulty. The sum involved is, I admit, a large one. It amounts to £300,000, and I think in one case under a trust deed it amounts to £125,000 or £150,000. For my own part I should like to be more acquainted with the precise terms of the trust deeds before making up my mind on the matter. There are considerations which point in the matter of finance to reasons why the possibility or difficulty of putting these funds into the hands of the Commission should be removed; and I am in hopes that that will be done. Further than that I cannot go at the moment, and I trust that the House will be content with the statement which I have made. But the question is receiving the most careful consideration of the Government with every desire to arrive at a decision that is fair and just to both parties.

So far I have dealt with the alterations we propose to make in the Bill. I now come to the fifth clause, which deals with the proposal we have made in regard to the Church of Scotland. I am afraid I shall require to trouble the House with a little of the historical position of this matter. But I shall be as brief as possible. Especially I would like those of my friends on this side of the House who are Englishmen to appreciate entirely the situation of the Scottish Church. May I be allowed to say, dealing with the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition when the Bill was introduced, and dealing with his remarks from no controversial point of view—because I can quite understand that it was difficult to appreciate the proposals we were making without having the terms of the Bill before him—but I think I shall be able to satisfy him before I have done that he hardly did justice in the remarks which he made at that time to what we actually propose. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of giving to the Church of Scotland a new constitution; of altering the constitution of the Church of Scotland; of tampering with the formularies and creeds of an ecclesiastical body; of rewriting its constitution and so on. I confess that I do not think that that at all fairly represents the proposal contained in this Bill. If I may remind the House, the foundation of our Scottish Presbyterian Church, so far as the matter we are now dealing with is concerned, is based on the statute of 1690—what I regard as the concluding statute of the Revolution settlement. That statute prescribes that—

> "Likeas they by these Presents ratify and establish the Confession of Faith now read in their presence and voted and approven by them as the public and avowed Confession of this Church containing the sum and substance of the doctrine of the reformed Churches."

That, I think, has always been regarded as a charter of the Church of Scotland. The House will observe it went only to this length, to ratify and establish the Confession of Faith as the public and avowed confession of the Church of Scotland; it required no subscription. It prescribed no formula, and we do not propose in any way to interfere with, omit, modify, or mitigate that statute. The Confession of Faith still remains the public and avowed faith of the Church of Scotland. But, following on that Parliamentary ratification of the confession, the General Assembly itself in that very year did prescribe a formula, because they passed an Act of Assembly by which it is required that all persons admitted as ministers, preachers, or elders should be

> "obliged to subscribe their approbation of the Confession of Faith approven by former General Assemblies of this Church, and ratified in the second session of the current Parliament."

So that the House will see that that was the first introduction of subscription or formula so far as the question with which I am dealing is concerned.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): Can the right hon. Gentleman give the exact years?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: In 1690 the General Assembly enacted that—

> "For retaining soundness and unity of doctrine it is judged necessary that all probationers licensed to preach, all intrants into the ministry, and all other ministers and elders received into communion with us in Church government, be obliged to subscribe their approbation of the Confession of Faith, approven by former General Assemblies of this Church, and ratified in the second session of the curren Parliament."

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): Who enacted that?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The Parliament did not enact anything except that the Confession of Faith must be avowed as the confession of the Church of Scotland, but it required no subscription. That is the position of the Church of Scotland as primarily and conclusively established by law under the Revolution settlement. The Church Courts enacted what was required from their ministers and office bearers, but that was not a matter with which Parliament had anything to do. Now, that is a feature which, at any rate, English Churchmen and English Nonconformists should keep in view: that so far as the requirements of individual ministers and the elders are concerned in regard to subscription, Parliament did not deal with it at all. The view I have expressed arises from the statute of 1693 which was passed by what Lord Macaulay, who studied these matters better than any of us have done, spoke of as a "strange Parliament."

*MR. McCRAE: No stranger than this one.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: Lord Macaulay speaks of it as Erastus, as even King William, would desire, and that Parliament undoubtedly did pass this Act, that the ministers and elders would be required to sign this declaration, that they professed and declared that the aforesaid confession was their Confession of Faith, and

> 'That no person be admitted or continued for hereafter to be a minister or preacher within the Church, unless that he, having first taken and subscribed the oath of allegiance and subscribed the assurance in manner appointed by another Act of this present session of Parliament made therenent, do also subscribe the Confession of Faith ratified in the aforesaid fifth Act of the second session of this Parliament, declaring the same to be the confession of his faith, and that he owns the doctrine therein contained to be the true doctrine, which he will constantly adhere to."

Now, the reason for that Act being passed, was that at that time, when a change was being made from Episcopalian rule to the Presbyterian rule, there were a considerable number of clergymen who had formerly acted as Episcopalian clergymen, and it was believed that they were willing to conform to the Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Church declined to receive them, and this Act was passed to secure that if the nonconforming Episcopalian clergy were willing to make that declaration, and if they first took the oath of allegiance, and then accepted the Confession of Faith as the confession of their faith, the Church was to receive them. That was never accepted by the Church as a Bill which Parliament ought to have passed; but in the following year the General Assembly passed an Act of Assembly—and I ask the attention of the House to the preamble—

> "That this Commission may receive into ministerial communion such of the late conforming ministers as, having qualified themselves according to law, shall apply personally to them, one by one, duely and orderly, and shall acknowledge, engage, and subscribe upon the end of the Confession of Faith,"

a declaration which did not materially differ from that contained in the statute of 1693. I refer to that as showing that the purpose of the Act of 1693 was, as the preamble of the Act of the General Assembly bears out, to allow the Episcopalian clergy who were willing to accept that declaration being received into the ministerial communion of the Church of Scotland. There seems to have been no change till 1711, when in that year the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland adopted a new policy and imposed more stringent formularies than those of 1693. That formula continued until 1889, so that so far as the records go from 1711 to 1889 it was not accepted as the formula for ministers, but on the contrary a formula prescribed by the General Assembly was taken, and it is only since 1889 that that formula has been really in operation.

It has been said that this question of formula is a new one; but that, surely, is not a correct representation. Everyone knows that since the time that the Church of England received the relaxation of its formula in 1865, there has been a consistent agitation in the Church of Scotland, and especially among those who were either engaged as teachers for the ministry or were young men desiring to join the ministry, to get a relaxation of its formula, and that relaxation was given, so far as the lay officers of the Church were concerned, by the Church's own hands. What we now ask, recognising that we are the Established Church, is that we should be given the same relaxation of that formula which has existed for 200 years, and we ask it on this ground—that we are dealing with a pecuniary question to a large extent, but which is of great interest, not only to the two Presbyterian Churches concerned, but to all Presbyterians and to all Scotsmen. And we find that the Church which is now the United Free Church is claiming to have the power not merely to alter its formula, but its subordinate standards including the Confession of Faith. We do not propose to give the Church of Scotland any power to alter the Confession of Faith, but we do say in this matter of subscription that the result will be, if you give the United Free Church the income of relief which we think it is entitled to and we propose to give it, that you will handicap the Church of Scotland in a way which would be intolerable and leave a sense of unfairness and bitterness behind it. Hon. Members who are not of the Church of Scotland may think that a matter of small importance. I can assure them that if the threat of the possibility of pecuniary disendowment is bad, there is a worse kind of disendowment which prevents the best men who want to enter the ministry from coming into the Church. That is a disadvantage and a prejudice to which, so far as I am concerned, I will be no party.

I think this clause is essential if we wish to establish ecclesiastical peace in Scotland, and to prevent a feeling of injustice, unfairness, and bitterness remaining which would be perfectly intolerable. To my mind there is no step being taken in this Bill beyond what is fair. The proposal is that the Church should have the power to alter the formula, but not the power to alter the Confession of Faith, and only if a majority of the Presbyteries agree to it. I am sure a good many English Members do not appreciate what that means. We have some eighty or ninety Presbyteries in Scotland, composed half of clergy and half of laity, yet every layman's vote counts as much as a clergyman's. In our synods, while there is a small preponderance of the clergy, there is an enormously large minority of the laity. Is there any suggestion in Scotland that the proposal we make would lead to any of the evils that have been conjured up through this clause ?

Mr. FINDLAY (Lanarkshire, N.E.): Why should this clause be introduced in the Bill at all ?

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: We are dealing with a difficult and complicated question in Scotland, and we do not think it fair to deal with it in such a way as would handicap the Church of Scotland, and leave the non-established Churches free. The result would be that the younger men desiring to enter the ministry would seek the wider portals of the United Free Church and the Church of Scotland would not at least get the more tender consciences. We think we are entitled to be put on a fair platform with the others. I am quite satisfied of this; you will not find in Scotland any man, to whatever Church he belongs, who will oppose this proposal on its merits. The House will keep in view that the Church of Scotland differs from the Church of England in this respect—that so far as trials for heresy or false doctrine are concerned the Church of Scotland Courts are absolutely supreme. They cannot be ruled by any civil Court, but they have absolute discretion to say: "This man has erred in this doctrine," and "We shall call him to account," or "We shall not call him to account," and when they have pronounced judgment no civil Court can interfere with the judgment. I think that goes deep into the matter. I think I have indicated the grounds on which I support this Bill. I will only add that why I have one strong reason for supporting it is that if you left the Church of Scotland fettered as the Act of 1693 is said to do, you will raise a barrier against what I trust will come to pass, the unity of all the Presbyterian churches, the importance of which it would be difficult to overlook. I say there is no point raised which would justify any Member on either side of the House or of the Tweed, to whatever Church they belong, in offering opposition to the Second Reading of this Bill.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has reserved all the warmth and vivacity of his speech for its latter part. That shows which particular part of the Bill attracts the most attention. The right hon. Gentleman spoke avowedly as a Churchman. I find no fault with him for being a Churchman in his proper place. But while he is on the Treasury Bench he is the official representative of the Government, and a Member of a House of Commons which is very much less interested in the Church of Scotland than the right hon. Gentleman seems to be. The right hon. Gentleman began by giving us a succinct account of the origin of all this mischief. I will not apply any microscopic examination to his narrative. I will accept it as correct. The decision of last year came as a thunderbolt to the people of Scotland; but the people of Scotland, being law-abiding and legal in their disposition in the highest sense, have accepted loyally that decision, and have respected it subject to two reservations to which I think it is right to refer. In the first place, it would not be fair to conceal the fact that there is an underlying sentiment that the judgment is weak in one particular: namely, that it was the judgment of a number of eminent men perfectly impartial and perfectly competent no doubt in their own sphere, but men who with one exception had no personal acquaintance with the conditions, history, sentiment, and feeling of the people of Scotland, and especially of the Church of Scotland, and men who did not possess full knowledge of the actual situation in Scotland. This point in Scotland, at every stage of its career of litigation from one Court to another, and by every Judge whose duty it was to form an opinion on the subject, was decided in an opposite sense to the decision given by the House of Lords. However loyal we may be and are to the judicial arrangements of the country we cannot somehow get this thing altogether out of our hearts.

Then there is another thing. After all, the Church is not a limited liability company or a great engineering concern. It exists for a higher, nobler, and more beneficent purpose. The sight of this great ecclesiastical organisation, which permeates Scotland and which reaches out its hand in missionary effort to the ends of the earth — an organisation sustained by efforts and sacrifices perhaps as splendid as anything the history of mankind can show — being stripped of its power to fulfil its great functions, and its funds handed over to a small number of men who have no pretension that they can fulfil these great duties, moved the heart of all Scotland more than anything in our generation. Therefore, while we accept the decision of the Supreme Court we accept it subject to these feelings and convictions; and we feel, with all respect, that the tribunal ought to have taken into account the ultimate result of their decision. At all events it became clear that this legal wrong must be remedied. I am bound to say that unfortunately the smaller Church involved in this controversy has done much to exaggerate the feeling which existed by pushing its efforts far beyond the limits of any parishes in which it could claim predominance or even considerable support. I think that is very unfortunate and has exasperated feeling, and I think the Government would have been wise if very early in the matter they had introduced a suspensory Act preventing the possibility of this action on the part of either one side or the other. But they preferred not to do so, and I daresay saw good reasons for the line they took.

They appointed a Royal Commission for inquiry, a Commission which had the confidence of us all and which has increased that confidence by the nature of their examination and the Report they have produced. What I say is, why did they not trust this Commission a little further? They are now asking to revive this Commission, as the Lord-Advocate said, with two additional names, but why did they not allow this second Commission to deal with the matter in the light and in the spirit of the Report already rendered. and why did they think it necessary to interfere with the sub-sections and clauses to which the Lord-Advocate has referred; to interfere and prescribe conditions to this new Commission which vary considerably from the recommendations of the former? I think the right hon. Gentleman himself took refuge in this Royal Commission whenever he found himself in a difficulty. There was a question of defining an adherent, and he said the members of the Royal Commission were so well known and so trusted that they could do without a definition. Well, if they can define an adherent they can do most things, and no one can doubt that they could have apportioned the funds in question in such a way as, after perhaps a little heart-burning at the time, would at all events ultimately have brought peace and given satisfaction to the Scotch people. That would have been the simplest thing to do, but the Government thought fit to introduce these clauses, two of which have been specially referred to, namely, the one affecting the trenching on actually-designated trust funds in order to find the money necessary and the other where it is sought to discover whether a congregation has a right to congregational property. I am glad to know that the right hon. Gentleman has been authorised to announce material improvements and modifications in those clauses, because if they had stood as they stand now in the Bill I am bound to say I should have found great difficulty in voting for the Second Reading of the Bill, but the right hon. Gentleman has promised great modifications which I think, though not perhaps quite satisfactory, go a great length. I may say incidentally that I think the Bill should in the meantime be only committed *pro forma*, in order that when we go into Committee we shall have the amended Bill before us and not this Bill at all. I will not dwell on those points, because the right hon. Gentleman explained them very fully and there is much that is satisfactory in them. When we have done with them and seen the ultimate shape they assume we shall be better able to know how we are to regard the Bill.

But the Bill does not stop there. Here is this great misfortune befallen Scotland affecting two Churches, and the Government for some mysterious reason which no one can fathom introduces another provision altogether affecting another Church, and the fact that it is a very important matter that has been introduced is proved by the long, elaborate, and historical argument that the Lord-Advocate had to employ in order to justify the clause. My right hon. friend behind me interrupted him by saying he wanted to know why it is here, however good it may be, and no doubt that is the most important point of all. We are all agreed that there must necessarily be some differences if we attempt in this House to lay down the actual apportionments of the funds, but we are all agreed, at all events, that there should be such an apportionment, and the whole of the clauses of the Bill, except Clause 5, are perfectly germane to the main purpose we have in view, and which is close to the heart of the Scotch people. But "*Medio de fonte leporum surgit amari aliquid.*" An apple of discord coming heaven knows from where, is flung on the field, and we are told that if this Bill is to be amended, which in its original form dealt rather hardly, as most people think, with the funds of the United Free Church, and the Government themselves acknowledge it and their willingness to amend it—if alterations are to be made in this Bill there is this Clause 5 which we must swallow as the price of it. I object altogether to the House of Commons, as a public body, being treated in this way, and I think our business here to-day is to separate the two subjects. The hon. Member for Halifax has given notice to move an instruction that the Bill be divided into two Bills, and whether the form in which he has framed that instruction is right or wrong, he is perfectly right, because the two things are totally distinct, and ought to be dealt with in separate Bills. Let us to-day pronounce on the contention between the two Churches and leave out of count this undesirable alien who has been dumped upon the shores of this unfortunate Bill, and who is likely to do more harm than most other aliens do. However, this can be dealt with in Committee, but the right hon. Gentleman has entered into so elaborate an explanation of it that there are one or two things I should like to say.

In the first place, so far as I know, it is a wholly new thing and without precedent as applied to a State Church, and in the second place it is not a thing to be sprung upon us without full opportunity for consideration. The right hon. Gentleman has shown what an elaborate story it is. He has brought in Lord Macaulay, King William, and I do not know whom, and a series of Acts of Parliament and Acts of Assembly, but the fact remains that this restriction, if restriction it be, is in force in the Scotch Church, and if it is desirable to have relief from it let it be sought for in a deliberate, formal, and constitutional way. We have a recent precedent, and that is a precedent of a case which is on all fours with this case. I refer, of course, to the Clerical Subscription Act of 1865. Now under this clause the whole question of defining the formula of subscription of ministers is to be left to the Church Courts, to the General Assembly, with the support of a majority of the Presbyteries. The right hon. Gentleman claimed that the presbyteries were about as much lay as clerical, but I doubt as a matter of fact whether that can be maintained at all in practice. I do not know why he did not extend his reference down to the Kirk Sessions. They are undoubtedly to a large degree laymen, and why should not they have a voice as well as the Presbyteries in settling a matter so vitally affecting their well-being? I merely throw that out as an idea, but that of course can hardly be done by a left-handed clause such as is now before us, but would require special legislation. But the Church is left free to change the subscription as it likes. Was ever State Church treated in that way, or rather was ever a State so treated in reference to a State Church? What is this Act of 1865? The right hon. Gentleman is afraid its portals are so narrow that all young men of intelligence and large views will be shut out, and in some way he tries to make out that the Established Church would be handicapped as

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

regards the other. How is it handicapped? We do not alter the formulas of the United Free Church.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): Yes.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: This Bill does not.

SIR J. FERGUSSON: Certainly.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The right hon. Gentleman will perhaps explain afterwards in what way we have altered the form of subscription of the ministers of the United Free Church. What was the reason for the Act of 1865 being introduced? Here is what Sir George Grey said, and it is exactly what the Lord-Advocate has said in this instance. He said he hoped that the objections felt to these subscriptions and declarations which had a tendency to prevent entrance into the Church of men of the highest character and most undoubted attachment to the Church would be removed by the Act. That is the very thing the Lord-Advocate has in view, but what they did in the English Church was this. It is entitled, "An Act to amend the law as to the subscription and declaration to be made and the oaths to be taken by the Clergy of the Established Church of England." This is the declaration of assent—

> "I, A.B., do solemnly make the following declaration. I assent to the thirty-nine Articles of religion, and to the Book of Common Prayer and to the ordering of Bishops, priests, and deacons. I believe in the doctrine of the Church of England as therein set forth to be agreeable to the word of God, and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments I will use the form prescribed and none other, except in so far as will be ordained by lawful authority."

That is the declaration which has to be made by every person instituted to a benefice after reading the thirty-nine Articles before the congregation after he has been instituted or collated. The House will observe that Parliament in that case prescribed the formula. It was to be a declaration of assent. They did not hand it over to the Church to enact anything they chose and to disenact it the next year. So that if we are to follow precedent, and surely we ought to follow it in this case, it will not be by such a clause as this is that that will be done. But this Bill was introduced following a Royal Commission to examine into the question, and they did not act in the darkness as we act. Many Members of the House did not know anything about it until the Lord-Advocate gave his Scotch history. The Scotch people had never heard of it, and were amazed when they heard it was included in this Bill. The members and adherents of the Church of Scotland themselves had not been consulted in the matter, and I shall be surprised if there is not a great deal of friction and trouble over it. What knowledge have we of the feeling of Scotland on this subject and even in the Church itself? Therefore, in my opinion, before moving in the matter we ought to have a Royal Commission or else ample time whereby my countrymen may be able to come to a conclusion for themselves. The Church of Scotland, its leaders and friends, have most of them played a most generous, sympathetic, and patriotic part in the events of the last year. They have behaved with great credit to themselves. They have been ready for the sake of peace and the cause of religion to help even those between whom and themselves there might be a certain natural feeling of resentment. But their help has hardly been so conspicuous that they can set up as the honest broker for bringing about a peaceful solution of this question, and, above all, they cannot surely ask that the favour they now seek should be given them as a sort of brokerage commission. On what possible ground is this inserted in the Bill unless it be to take the opportunity of giving a *quid pro quo* to the Established Church? I do not know what the *quo* means. What does it? This is giving something, but what has been got in return? I object to treating the whole of these things by way of bargaining, but when we find this clause mysteriously inserted here, we have to come to the conclusion that there must be some object other than that stated. I do not believe any object has been stated. Let the Church of Scotland seek the favour which they desire by the manly and open constitutional process of Parliament, and I, for my part, shall be ready in a proper constitutional way to meet their desires so far as it is possible they should be met. I object altogether, by a side wind and in this unconstitutional way, to bringing in a matter of controversy into a Bill which ought to be without controversy, and bringing delay to a Bill whose essence is in the direction of rapid action. I object to this clause being introduced in this way. At this stage, however, I for my part support and should advise others to support the Second Reading of the Bill. We can deal with Clause 5 in Committee. We shall see the changes proposed by the Government when they take shape and when they come out of Committee, and then we can determine our future course. For my part, I earnestly hope that the result of the consideration of this Bill may be such that the Bill may secure general assent not only here but in Scotland, and that the final decision of the Royal Commission may meet with the approval of the Scotch people so that a new era may open with the cause of religion freed from the impediments, heart-burnings and anxieties which have formed an unhappy era of dissent in Scotland.

MR. CORBETT (Glasgow, Tradeston) said the speech of the Lord-Advocate would give a great deal of encouragement to those who had been apprehensive. He was glad to hear the observations he made with regard to the pooling of the funds. They hoped with the Lord-Advocate that none of these trusts would be interfered with, but that they would all be kept for their right purpose. Then he was glad to hear that hope which he expressed that to this Commission might also be referred the legacies which had been left in recent times. He referred to a legacy of a large amount. It was distinctly a case for reference to a Commission to investigate the will and intentions of the donor, because otherwise the money would go to those with whom the testator was not in sympathy and for purposes which he did not wish. He could not agree with some of the conclusions drawn by the Leader of the Opposition from Clause 5 of the Bill. He alluded to it as a kind of bargain. The United Free Church as a central organisation had made no declaration as to Clause 5. Certain Presbyteries of the United Free Church had made declarations as to the possibility of the progress of the Bill being facilitated by that clause being omitted, but, taking that clause upon its merits, a very large number of the United Free Church felt as keenly in favour of it as any member of the Established Church. It was no question between rival denominations; it was a question for earnest men who wished to see the moral and religious progress of their country best advanced through both channels. The clause in no way changed the legal position of the Established Church, but it relieved any member of it from having to sign a declaration as the declaration of his individual faith which more or less damaged and strained his conscience. Christian men everywhere ought to welcome a proposal which did not change the legal *status* of the member beyond relieving him of the obligation to sign as a matter of personal faith that which did not fully express his religious opinion. It was a question whether the inclusion or exclusion of this proposal would facilitate the progress of this Bill, but he wished it to be clearly understood that there were very many in the United Free Church who welcomed most cordially what they believed to be an advance in the right direction.

*MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said he was sure every Member in the House was glad to see the Bill introduced, because it dealt with a state of matters in Scotland which, if it had occurred in any other country, would have resulted in riot and bloodshed, and social serious disorder. At the present moment, about 100 men were being turned out of churches which were associated in their minds with everything most sacred to the human being, at the instance of persons who had contributed nothing to their erection, and who in some cases had up to this time had no relations with the congregations. And the parties who were being treated in that way were still further provoked by the knowledge that they themselves were the parties who had subscribed the funds for the erection of these churches. If it were a fact that the parties now in possession of these churches were able to make full use of them the position would not be so acute, but in many cases these parties who had gained possession of the churches had shown themselves entirely unable to make full use of them, and in point of fact the churches were found empty for many Sundays, instead of being filled by their regular congregations. What wonder was it that throughout the whole English-speaking world it had caused amazement that such a position should be permitted so long to continue in Scotland! Had it occurred in any other country it would have resulted in scenes of the very greatest social disorder. The good order which in circumstances so trying had been preserved was a very good reason for the House intervening, and that rapidly, to remedy those evils and grievances. Who were the parties who were being treated in this way? Were they malefactors or persons who had done anything worthy of censure? No, they were parties who, in accordance with the univeral sentiment of the civilised world, entered into a union against which no reasonable person saw any good ground. The cause of difference between the two churches who had united was a very abstruse question of the legitimacy of civil establishment, but that that question had never been made a term of communion in the Free Church before its union with the United Presbyterian Church in 1900. It was an open question in that Church, and over and over again the contrary proposition had been affirmed with by large votes of the General Assembly when the questions of the maintenance of the existing establishment had been before it. He thought the House would agree with him that they, at all events, should not be the parties to be punished for having carried out this very desirable operation of union.

It was asked what about the House of Lords judgment and how that affected the situation? Were they not bound by that judgment, and ought they not to carry it out in its entirety? He submitted that that was not a correct position to take up in this House. In this House they were representatives of the people, and they were called upon to administer common sense and justice, and therefore they were entitled to examine how far the House of Lords decision conformed to the dictates of common sense and justice. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned one or two points in which the decision of the House of Lords was open to criticism as regards its essential characteristics. At all events it had failed to realise that the Free Church had in fact prior to 1900 freely exercised the power of joining with other bodies and that it had before 1900 asserted and did now assert its right to define and alter its doctrinal standards. It was one of the good features of the present Bill that, recognising this right in the part of the United Free Church, Parliament was restoring the property dealt with in the Bill on the basis of the United Free Church, through its Assembly in the future, exercising full rights as to union with other bodies and alteration and definition of its doctrinal standards. It was true the Bill did not in express terms make any statement on this head, but after the Declaration passed at the last General Assembly of the United Free Church and the Lord-Advocate's speech at the First Reading this was clearly implied.

In the second place, the facts were obviously not known to the House of Lords when they gave their decision. It was a matter of common notoriety in Scotland that only a partial statement of the facts was put before the House of Lords, because the Judges in the Court below were fully informed of the true position of matters from 1843 onwards in regard to the Free Church. They knew all this of themselves and therefore it was not considered necessary to lead formal proof upon matters of common knowledge in the Court below. But in the House of Lords the Judges were in the main not aware of these matters of common knowledge. Now what was the original attitude of the Free Church with regard to this question of union with other bodies outside itself? The Lord Chancellor in his judgment quoted one dictum of Dr. Chalmers, but there were other dicta to which he paid no attention whatever. Dr. Guthrie, speaking in the Disruption Assembly, in 1843, said—

> "I am for the union in the meantime in the way of co-operation. We cannot stop there, and I defy any man to stop there."

Dr. Chalmers said on May 2nd, 1843—

> "I trust we are now upon the way immediately to co-operation, as I trust that by itself it will be a very great and important step towards incorporation."

These were dicta laid down at the very launching of the Free Church, to which no attention whatever was apparently paid in the House of Lords judgment.

Another fact which was not ascertained by the House of Lords was in regard to the intention of donors to the funds of the Free Church. No evidence at all was led upon that head, and it was a matter of regret that even the Royal Commission, who had otherwise done their work so well, did not admit evidence in regard to the intentions of donors. There was reason for believing that a very large proportion of the money contributed to the Free Church before the Union was contributed by parties who were favourable to the Union. He would give one illustration. In the year 1899 he had the privilege of being the means of communicating to the Free Church a gift of £1,000 from a lady, and that lady gave this sum of money in express terms communicated at the time of the gift as a token of her approval of the approaching Union. Now what was the effect of the House of Lords judgment in this case? It was that this particular gift had been transferred to those parties who were opposed to the Union. If that was true with regard to this particular case it was equally true with regard to a very large percentage of the other funds held by the Free Church at the time of the union. This was evidenced by the fact that in 1873, while Union negotiations were broken off at that period, very great progress had been made in that direction by resolving upon mutual eligibility between the two Churches. That was to say, ministers of both Churches were eligible to be transferred from one Church to the other, and were in fact interchangeable. The small differences existing between them were not considered to be a barrier to the election and ordination of ministers of one Church into the congregation of another. Now the proportion of funds contributed since the year 1873 had been very large indeed as compared with what was contributed before that time. He was not very wrong in saying that not less than three-fourths of the whole central funds dealt with by the House of Lords judgment was contributed after everyone knew that the Union was only a matter of time. He had the privilege of being born in a Free Church manse, and, therefore, he knew the sentiment which animated the Church in 1873 and onwards. All throughout the Church it was looked forward to as an early and urgent matter that this union should be consummated.

Did this Bill meet the case even with the Amendments suggested by the Lord-Advocate? Did it conform to the requirements of the situation? Did it not, even with the Amendments now suggested, unduly penalise those persons who had carried out a great and sacred duty in uniting with their brethren? Did it meet the standard which might be reasonably set up of their requirements in the way of participation in the funds of the old Free Church? He concurred in the observation made by his right hon. friend the Member for Stirling Burghs, why not trust the Commissioners? They were a body of trusted men in Scotland, and they were trusted with the very important duty of defining adherents, and why not leave the whole thing to them to say what was an equitable solution of this problem? He thought they should have an answer upon that point before the Second Reading of this Bill concluded. The second point was, did the provision in this Bill meet the requirements of the case as regarded the model trust deeds of the old Free Church? There they found that members only were to be voters in disposing of congregational property, and that a majority of them were to decide as to such disposal. In regard to this point he would give the substance of the ninth Article of the trust deed. That Article provided as follows—

> "If at any time hereafter one-third of the whole ordained ministers shall not only publicly separate from the said body, but at the same time publicly claim and profess to hold

truly and in *bona fide* the principles of the protest of the 18th May, 1843, in that case it shall be competent to, and in the power of a majority of the congregation to provide and declare that the congregational property shall from henceforward be held as in connection with the body of Christians adhering to the ministers who shall have separated as aforesaid."

That was precisely the case with which they were dealing, except that they were dealing with less than a third of the ministers who professed to remain by the old position, but this was a difference against, not in favour of the legal Free Church. He thought this House, if it studied the reasons set out by the Lord Chancellor for disallowing the application of the trust deeds to this case, would find very great difficulty in following them as a matter of ordinary common sense. What he felt this House ought to do and appreciate was that this very case which had arisen was dealt with, and was provided for, by the men who invited contributions towards this Church in 1843; that it was easy to see what they intended to provide, and that this intention had in point of fact not been given effect to by the judgment with which they were now dealing. He suggested that the Government should revert frankly and without reserve to the terms of the model trust deeds, and give congregational property to the majority of members, and members only, of the congregations affected. It was said that this would not do in some Highland places because the adherents were there more numerous than the members. That was quite true, and he knew that there were congregations where adherents formed a large proportion of the congregation. But, after all, the probability was that in each congregation the same proportion of members and adherents respectively adhered or dissented to the union. It was improbable that in any congregation a large proportion of the adherents dissented from the union while a large proportion of the members entered into it, so that neither party took advantage nor suffered disadvantage by adhering to the membership as forming the constituency which was to determine the destination of congregational property. There was this very great advantage in that course, that they had no difficulty in ascertaining the parties who were to vote and who were to exercise their rights in relation to congregational property.

Another provision of this Bill related to the endowment of the ministers of the legal Free Church. It was very natural that the parties connected with the Established Church should think that some endowment should be made in connection with the establishment of a congregation. But in the Free Church it had not been the habit to endow ministers. Upon the whole the inclination had been to hold that the ministers were better dependent upon the general freewill offerings of the people. That had been the principle acted upon up till now in the Free Church, and it was a principle which seemed to him should not be departed from without very grave and earnest consideration, and only for very good reasons. On that point he hoped the Government would give the matter their very careful consideration.

Now he came to Clause 5. With regard to this clause, he should not say very much except that when the decision was given by the House of Lords many of them felt that a great opportunity had arisen in Scotland for the promotion of further union between the various Churches. That was something very near to the heart of many in Scotland, but what he rather feared was that this clause was, if anything, anteunionist in its effects. The mountain having been in travail had brought forth a mouse. He regretted that those responsible for advising the Church of Scotland had not brought forward proposals to bring about a comprehensive union, even though it might have been at some cost in the matter of endowments. He was satisfied that if what had been proposed had been directed to that end it would have had large support throughout Scotland, and happier results would have flowed from this great upturning than if the clause as it stood was pushed through. As had been intimated by his right hon. friend the Member for the Stirling Burghs, it was not proposed, so far as could be seen at present, in view of the concessions which had been made by the Lord-Advocate, to divide on the Second Reading of the Bill, but he hoped that the points he had mentioned would be kept in mind and that they would receive further consideration in Committee. He sincerely hoped that the net result would be an era of greater peace and quiet in Ecclesiastical Scotland than they had during the past year.

*MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said he wished to congratulate the Lord-Advocate on the able and lucid manner in which he had explained this difficult Bill. He thought it was a great pity that the necessity for such a Bill had arisen. The people of Scotland and the Government had fondly hoped that the two Churches would have come to an amicable arrangement, which would have been much better for all concerned. Recently, however, they had given up almost all hope of such an arrangement. But he thought there was still a faint glimmer of hope in connection with this matter. He might mention that he had been authorised by the leaders of the Free Church to hand to the Lord-Advocate a private statement of the terms which they were prepared to recommend to their constituents for a friendly settlement in connection with this matter, including the share of the buildings belonging to the Free Church on the Mound at Edinburgh, the number of churches in connection with the free churches which they were prepared to accept, and the amount of money which they also would be prepared to accept as a settlement. It was a very simple statement; it was contained on a half-sheet of notepaper, and his suggestion was that the other Church, the United Free Church, should send to the Lord-Advocate a similar private statement of what they were prepared to accept to secure a friendly settlement. The Lord-Advocate had shown the greatest interest and, he thought, the greatest impartiality in this matter, and there might be associated with him the Attorney-General, whose clear understanding in connection with all Church matters, in Scotland especially, would be of the greatest benefit. These two hon. Gentlemen would act as advisers and as the general recipients of the views of both parties. He would suggest that the Churches should be represented not so much by the clerical and legal element as by laymen from both sides, business men of common sense.

If an amicable arrangement were adopted, which he thought there was some small chance of there being, then it could go before the Commission which was about to be appointed, who could accept and legalise it, and there would be enormous advantages connected with the reception of such a friendly arrangement. In the first place, it would prevent the recurrence of those squabbles and bickerings which had been so frequent before the Royal Commission which was appointed to investigate this subject. It would also prevent the irritation which must necessarily follow from any decision come to by the Commission. He had been receiving letters stating the feelings of the people who thought that if a friendly settlement was not arrived at, and if there was a compulsory settlement, there might not be the same law-abiding feeling on the part of the people who had suffered so much. He thought these expressions were exaggerated, and that the people of Scotland would prove themselves to be the law-abiding people they had been in the past. But the advantages would be enormous if there could be a friendly settlement in connection with the matter. It would be the beginning of that great friendly settlement which would include all the Presbyterian Churches in one great union, and it would show that the people of Scotland connected with those Churches, which had done so much in the past for the religious life of the country, were now prepared to bury all their animosities and go forward in a common union. It would prevent the disagreeable friction between the two Churches in their future conduct of the religious life of a very large portion of the people of Scotland.

He just wished to say in one word as to what was his own position in this matter. He was entirely and absolutely a friendly neutral. He had all his life been connected with the Established Church of Scotland, but he had warm friends in both the Free Church and the United Free Church, and it was entirely in the interests of peace and religion that he had intervened in this matter to make the suggestions which he now did, with all diffidence, to the leaders of the United Free Church, that they also should send in a private statement similar to that to which he had referred in connection with the Free Church, and that they should leave it to the advice given to them by his right hon. friends the Lord-Advocate and the Attorney-General. He had some hope, at any rate, that a friendly settlement might be arrived at which would be in the interests of not only the United Free Church and the Free Church, but of the whole people of Scotland, and, he thought, in the interests of religious concord throughout the world.

*MR. EUGENE WASON congratulated the Lord-Advocate upon the very lucid statement he had made in moving the Second Reading of the Bill. He was especially glad that he had gone back to the bedrock of 1900 as the date at which the Churches should be dealt with. They ought, however, to insist that the proportion of one third should be retained. For his part, he should endeavour to get the Bill amended in that respect and he believed if that was done it would in a great measure satisfy the people of Scotland. The Lord-Advocate asked whether any Scotchman would stand up and say that the Scottish people did not approve of the fifth clause of the Bill, which was the most controversial in it. He had in his hand letters from two distinguished gentlemen in regard to this clause. One said in his letter—

> "I dislike exceedingly the trick of tacking on Clause 5 dealing with the Established Church formula, but far more do I resent the two leading features of the Bill."

The other gentleman wrote—

> "The fifth clause—Established Church—is extraneous. Let the two things be kept separate. Ours is an emergency measure. That is an historical fact, and by the clause injustice is done to our cause by diverting attention to a matter with which we have nothing to do. Let the Established Church attend to her own affairs and not saddle us with them."

He had recived innumerable letters protesting most strongly against the fifth clause being introduced by a side wind into the Bill.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: My point is that nobody objects to it on its merits.

*MR. EUGENE WASON said he thought that did not alter the point he was endeavouring to make, and when the Member for Halifax came to move his Amendment to separate the Bill into two he should most heartily and cordially support it. The hon. Member for Banffshire said it would be impossible for a gentleman from the South of the Tweed to go into a Free Church or a United Presbyterian Church and to tell which Church he was in. He would go one better than that. Before the Union in 1900, they might take a Southerner into an Established Church, a United Presbyterian, or a Free Church, and he would not be able to say which Church he had been to. He remembered having a friend in Scotland whom he took round to those different churches; he never could tell which was which, and he said that he did not understand why the people of Scotland should not have disestablishment when they were all of the same religion. His friend stated that it was quite different in Wales because there the forms of worship in the Established Church and in the Nonconformist Churches were quite different. He was a strong supporter of the union which took place in 1900. That year was a black one for this country; it was the year of the Boer War and of the Khaki elections. The one brilliant feature in the whole year was the great union of the United Presbyterian and the Free Churches, which everyone looked to as an event which was to bring about the larger union of Presbyterians which had been alluded to, and which he was sure every Scotsman wished to see carried out. They had been spoken about as a law-abiding people in Scotland. Well, the relations were getting very much strained. He did not wish to allude to what took place at Newton-on-Ayr last Sunday; those who wished to know could read it in the Scotch papers for themselves. They could strain loyalty too far. He was reminded of the petition which was sent by Robert Burns to the right hon. and hon. Scotch representatives in the House of Commons—

"For God's sake, Sirs, then speak her fair,
And straik her cannie wi' the hair,
And to the 'Muckle House' repair
Wi' instant speed,
And strive wi' a' your wit and lear
To get remead."

They were trying to put an end to an intolerable state of things in Scotland. He hoped this Bill would get a Second Reading, that they would get it amended in Committee and make it a better Bill, and that they would get what was so ardently desired for the ecclesiastical peace in Scotland.

*MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) said he thought every man in the House felt the absolute necessity of closing the strife which there had been in Scotland of late months. He believed that Church and State were now much nearer to an understanding with each other than in the past. The Disruption of 1843 was a blunder. It was a magnificent performance on the part of those who went out, but it arose to a great extent from a lack of understanding between Church and State. He hoped that now they were nearer to that understanding. He was quite sure that any attempt to go back on the judgment of the House of Lords would not solve the difficulty in which they found themselves; but it was absolutely necessary to stop the course of evictions. They must assuage the religious war which was now raging and quiet the feelings which were so keen when men felt themselves outraged in regard to their deepest sentiments. This conflict in Scotland had been between a small and tiny handful of men strong in their own beliefs. This handful of men had a greater strength in the most backward districts of Scotland and among the least educated of the people. On the other side there was a great body, who could, in vigour and power of education, bear comparison with any religious community in England. To that small handful they must give justice. This had been done; their claims had been fully recognised. But they must take care that in doing them justice they did not impair the great Christian work carried on by the larger section, the United Free Church of Scotland.

Mr. Eugene Wason.

Now, the House of Lords had declared the Free Church to be the legal owners of the property of the late Free Church, but they were owners as trustees and the trusts had to be regarded. The Elgin Commission had declared that the Free Church could not adequately discharge many of the trusts in connection with the property in question, and that in such cases the property should be given back to the United Free Church subject to a liberal provision being made for the Free Church. It was a great relief and satisfaction to find from the Lord-Advocate's speech that the Government was able to take that line, and that the House would be asked to use for the satisfaction of the claims of the Free Church only the free funds and not those destined to particular purposes. The Lord-Advocate spoke with confidence in regard to some trusts, but not with the same confidence with regard to others. He thought the feeling of the House would be strongly expressed not only in regard to foreign missions but also in regard to all special and particular trusts. It was the duty of a trustee to use the funds in his charge for the benefit of the specific objects of the trust which should be considered as permanent. He believed that the free funds would be sufficient for all purposes of providing liberally for the Free Church. If not it might be necessary for the United Free Church to pledge its credit to raise any further sums that they needed for the purpose. He hoped that the result of the Bill would be that sufficient funds would be obtained by the Free Church in that way, and that those funds which were earmarked for special purposes would not be touched, or their destination in any way altered.

If that was true of the funds it was still more necessary in regard to buildings, both central and congregational. There was as great a difference between buildings and funds in this case as between a money indemnity and a loss of territory in the case of war. Money might be replaced, but the memory of the possession of lost provinces remained. While he thought that money compensation should be given to the full amount of the requirements of the Free Church, he trusted, to the greatest possible extent, all the buildings which had been used by the larger body would remain in the future in their hands. Everyone who had spoken had felt that the Lord-Advocate, by fixing for counting the number of members and adherents, had indicated a way of putting an end to the scramble for increasing the number of members and adherents which had, in many cases, shocked Scotland. With regard to legacies, he hoped that that question might be fully and completely settled before the Bill passed out of their hands without the need of any future litigation. There were difficulties in connection with legacies, but this was one of these matters which might be fairly and readily left to the Commission to deal with. Without going so far as some hon. Members wished to do, and without feeling it right to give the Commission an absolutely free hand to deal with all matters as they might please, he would leave them to deal with legacies in a spirit of equity. There was one point he would like to ask the Lord-Advocate about, namely, whether funds not connected with the trusts of any particular Church, such as the Ferguson Bequest Fund, were to be touched. The trustees of that fund were composed of representatives of the different Presbyterian Churches of Scotland and they had a free hand in distributing this fund. He hoped there was nothing in the Bill that would interfere with the continuance of that freedom, or make it necessary for the Commission to lay down any more hard-and-fast rule than existed at the present moment.

One important point was raised by the Leader of the Opposition with which he could not agree, and that was that the present Bill made no change in the constitution or tests of the United Free Church. He thought it made the very greatest change in the constitution and the position of the United Free Church and its trusts in the future. Under this Bill the property allocated to the Free Church was allocated according to its constitution. What was the constitution of the Church? He hoped that the United Free Church would have full and ample time to decide what its constitution in the future was to be, and upon what trusts it desired to receive back the property that was going to be re-allocated to it. They had just found that the compact which united their members was too straight for them. In all the discussions in the House of Lords the question was whether, under the form of compact or bond of union, the General Assembly had the power to vary the doctrine of the Church, and what were the limits of such a power. The present difficulty had arisen because it had been decided by the House of Lords that under the old constitution of the Free Church they had not the power which they desired to alter or vary its doctrines, or the bond of union which united its members. The Free Church, since the time of the Disruption controversy, had always asserted the fullest spiritual independence, but no such assertion of independence could ever displace the right and duty of the State to interpret the compact and bond of union whenever the question arose as to what the compact between the members was. That was decided long ago in the Cardross case. That was the whole principle and point on which the present case was decided. If power was assumed by a Church in the compact entered into by its members to alter from time to time its formularies and standards, and if that was clearly and precisely explained and laid down, then, of course, the State would recognise it, as they would recognise any other form of the constitution of a Church. But the choice must be made. Either a fixed and settled standard might be adopted or freedom must be given to change. They could not have both. The Church might either assert that her standards were to be those which were held and asserted from time to time by the majority of her own body, or it might declare that certain principles were to be accepted as cardinal principles for all time. Now the United Free Church was prepared to ask full freedom and to lay aside any fixed standard or formularies except the fundamental standard of the Bible, as contained in the Old and New Testaments. This principle was declared in the resolution of the last General Assembly—

> "That the Church has the sole and exclusive right and power, from time to time as duty may require, to her Courts to alter, change, add to, and modify her constitution and laws

according to the standard and formularies, and to determine and declare what these are, and to unite with other Christian Churches."

That gave full and complete liberty to the United Free Church. Supposing, to take an extreme, that the majority of the General Assembly and of the Presbyteries agreed to join the Church of Rome, they would have full liberty to do so. That was an extreme illustration—but it was quite possible that in future this freedom now claimed by the United Free Church might lead very far to the adoption of other principles than those now held by the majority of its members. The same principle of absolute freedom was being laid down in the declarations of trust which were taking the place of the old model trust deed, out of which this difficulty had arisen. This was a very large step. It was giving the Church the right to reconstruct its formularies as and when it pleased and to relax its standards if and when it was convinced that that was right and necessary. He agreed in principle, because he believed in the principles of evolution and development. He held that—

"Through the ages one increasing purpose runs,"

and he would rather leave to the wisdom of the Church in the future the decision on points that arose from time to time than try to confine them according to ideas that were held at the present time.

The freedom which was thus given by the Bill was not realised by the Leader of the Opposition, and necessarily reacted upon all other Churches, and most directly upon the Church of Scotland. Therefore, it was upon Clause 5 that so much of this debate had turned. There had been no clear objection to Clause 5 on its merits. He could not make out what the views of the Leader of the Opposition were. He told them this was an apple of discord, and *amari aliquid*, but he did not know whether he objected to it on its merits. He raised difficulties about the Established Church altering its formularies, but he should like to know whether he objected to it on its merits. He wished the right hon. Gentleman had not used words which were hardly worthy as to the attitude of the Church of Scotland in this matter. He talked of brokerage or bargaining. That was not the right way in which to approach a subject of this sort, and it was not the way in which leading men in the United Free Church or other prominent men had approached it. A great religious problem was under discussion in this Parliament, produced by the case of the United Free Church, but that problem stirred the waters altogether, and it was right that it should be dealt with as a whole. What the Lord-Advocate said was true as to the effect upon men desiring to join the Church, and who found in the one Church rigid and archaic standards, and that they were tied down to every single word of the declaration 200 years old, of which the manner at any rate had become obsolete altogether, and which was no longer believed by one man in a thousand. It was a serious matter, when a man was considering what Church he was to join, whether he found himself pledged to sign his full and exact belief in a declaration of that sort, or whether he was called upon to give his assent and approval to the standard as a whole. In that case he accepted and believed the main principles, but he could leave out of consideration smaller details which were no longer part of our modern method of thought. It would be a grave thing for the Church of Scotland if the most promising young men with tender and delicate consciences were lost and driven into other Churches whose activity was as great, and whose ideals and views on all other points were so closely akin to those of the Established Church. When this problem was once opened they ought to deal with it as affecting all Churches and not the one only, therefore this relaxation of formula was sought.

The right hon. Gentleman spoke of it as if it was some new idea, and that they did not know what the feeling of Scotland was. As if the thing had not been under discussion for many years and accepted unanimously by the General Assembly. The Church of England obtained a similar relaxation forty years ago in regard to the Articles. Under the Clergy Subscription Act a similar change was made from a form which made a man declare his absolute assent and consent to everything prescribed in the Thirty-nine Articles and the Book of Common Prayer. There was a certain difference, for that Act prescribed the exact terms of the formula which was to be substituted for a too narrow and rigid formula, and this Act while maintaining the standard of the Confession of Faith, left it in the hands of the Church to decide upon the exact formula. That difference was a very small one. The right hon. Gentleman said there was no precedent; but there was the Scotch precedent of 1690, that great Act of the Revolution settlement to which they wished to return. What they wished was to take away the stringent test imposed for a temporary purpose and to return to the strong principle which was embodied in the first Act. That was what they desired and the difference was very small. The constitution of the Church of Scotland, in which the governing body was infinitely more a lay body than in the Church of England, and the certainty that any proposal of serious change would arouse the keenest interest in Scotland, and would be fully discussed in each independent Presbytery before it was accepted, should be an amply sufficient protection against any rash or ritualistic changes which some Members seemed so to fear. It was absolutely and completely a Liberal principle to relax tests and to give freedom of opinion to men in all positions, to professors as well as to ministers, and he could not conceive any real objection being taken to the change on the merits.

Of course the point might be raised that it was a separate matter, and might be dealt with in a separate Bill. He had tried to show it was not a separate matter, but was more closely akin to the rest of the Bill than appeared at first sight. In addition to that they all knew there was a practical reason for joining the two, viz., that it was extremely difficult to get a Bill through Parliament which had not the immediate pressure of urgency behind it. That was a practical answer to the suggestion that the Bill would be better separated. Seeing that there was not the smallest chance of this clause becoming law if it was not taken as part of this measure, he did not think it should be separated. The objections to it had merely been that it would endanger the Bill, because it would be a stumbling stone and would raise opposition. All that went if it did not arouse opposition, and people were content to take it on the merits. He believed and trusted this measure would bring back peace to Scotland and that it would be a great boon to all the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley), as an English Member, apologised for intervening in a debate which related purely to a Scotch matter, but the whole of the discussion had gone to prove that every speaker was conscious of the fact that there were questions raised by the Bill different from the particular effect on the Free Churches. The introduction of Clause 5 into this Bill had created a feeling of surprise and alarm amongst a good many people interested not only in these questions from the Scotch point of view, but in the question of the relationship existing between Church and State in England as well as in Scotland. In the first place, he thought, and hon. Members on the other side must feel, that it was not exactly a praiseworthy action on the part of the Government to take advantage of the present difficulties of one Church to advance the interests of another, while many other Members could not possibly accept the principle laid down in Clause 5. A very great price might be paid by his hon. friends who accepted this Bill with this clause in it, for it was more far-reaching than any Committee point. They had had a learned defence of Clause 5 from the Lord-Advocate and an able defence from the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. The Lord-Advocate referred to the handicapping of the Church of Scotland and the hon. Member for Partick referred to the tender consciences of the clever young men who wished to enter the Church who had grave difficulties in regard to the present Confession of Faith. It was the first time he had ever heard of the handicapping of the Established Church or of the State with regard to the Established Church. Up to the present the Established Church had had all the advantages. Other people had been handicapped and had tender consciences, but they had had to come out of the Established Churches both of England and Scotland. He was surprised also to hear the hon. Member for Partick in that portion of his speech dealing with the Disruption of the Church speaking of that Disruption as a blunder. He was perfectly certain that had it not been for the Disruption they would never have heard anything of Clause 5.

Mr. PARKER SMITH: I made a mistake. What I meant to say was that the Disruption was the result of a misunderstanding.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON: Does the hon. Gentleman deny that he used the word "blunder."

Mr. PARKER SMITH: I daresay I used the word "blunder," but I never should have described it as a blunder; it was a misfortune, and the result of a misunderstanding in the Church.

Mr. ALFRED HUTTON said it was due to the Disruption that we had that liberty of conscience of which we had heard so much. This clause went much further than the limitation as to the subscription to the Confession of Faith. When they left it to the Church from time to time to alter its formula of subscription it was certain that the Confession of Faith was itself in danger. But when they could draw up a formula of subscription the State could say they no longer insisted on the Confession of Faith as a test of the basis of faith. It was an extraordinary thing that the Government never paid any attention to the Reports of its own Commissioners when their Reports were inconvenient. The Commission appointed in connection with the Scotch Churches never referred to the conditions of the Established Church at all, yet the Government presumed to introduce this clause. The Government also appointed a Commission to inquire into the question of the Scotch Universities' tests, and in the face of the recommendations of that Commission they proposed to hand over all the power in regard to the religious tests to the Ecclesiastical Board. What about the tender consciences in that case? They were to appropriate all these positions of emolument, position, and power but when it came to giving any real and satisfactory relief they gave the lie direct to the Commission and were going to hand over the power in regard to the tests to the Ecclesiastical Board and withdraw the powers which the State had hitherto held over their own Universities. He presumed the friends of the National Church, the State Church, were not merely friends of the State Church from the £ s. d. point of view. They were friends of the Established Church because they believed in its principles; because they believed the nation had some duty, some rights to exercise, which it could only exercise through a Church; some duties and rights, spiritual and moral, which it could only perform through the agency of a Church.

When the State withdrew from the performance of its duties to the Church and handed over to the Church the right to draw up its own formula of subscription and test of profession of faith that was a denial of the principle of Establishment, and the advocates and supporters of this Bill knew the State were taking the first step towards disestablishment. But when they took the first step they had no right to stop where they did. If they were going to claim a right of freedom spiritually they must claim the whole of the rights of free property. They must retain all the power and patronage and freedom of property, which was really the meaning of a State Church. That would be creating a precedent which he could imagine the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich using in a very formidable manner in times to come. It would delight the heart of the noble Lord to hear that this House was going to abandon the principle which governed the Established Church, and to adopt a new one which left it to the National Church to draw up its own subscription, its own formula, its own creed, and to practice its own ritual; because that was bound to follow in the long run. In fact, it might obviously take the form of saying that they were not bound by any particular Confession of Faith or the whole Thirty-nine Articles. This was legislation to justify that doctrine of reservation which came under the contempt of all honest men. and he thought the action the Government was taking in connection with the Scotch Churches was a very doubtful one. He begged to move.

*MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said he desired to second the Amendment submitted to the House so ably by his hon. friend, and should like to emphasise the objection he had taken to Clause 5. He should have called it an extraordinary clause were it not for the fact that they had been treated by the present Government on many previous occasions to similar legislation. The object of this Bill had been very ably and adequately described by the Lord-Advocate in introducing it, and he could not help feeling that in the latter part of his remarks the right hon. Gentleman himself showed he must be aware of the invasion made by this clause in the Bill. It appeared that the authors of the Bill saw an opportunity of dealing with a question which had often, no doubt, been referred to, but as to which there was no feeling in the House or the country. Clause 5 dealt with the Established Church. It must be noted that the two Churches coming to the House of Commons to seek relief were neither of them Established Churches, and therefore it was a matter of apportioning property belonging to either one or the other. But when they came to deal with property belonging to the Established Church they were on altogether different lines, and it seemed that in framing this Bill the Lord-Advocate and those acting with him had framed it on lines which they knew would not pass this House, but which would meet the opposition of the bulk of the United Free Church. They must have been aware that this Bill could not find acceptance with the large body of the Free Churches represented in this House, and the question therefore was, why was this Bill framed on principles which were known to be unacceptable? Clearly so that the rest of the Bill might be used to bargain for the retention of Clause 5. It was not a high moral proceeding to frame a Bill on principles known to be unacceptable in order that they might be bartered with. The Bill savoured more of the horse-dealing principle of "do not bid as much as you mean to give; but leave a little to bargain with."

He was quite sure that the Lord-Advocate was wrong when he said that as a body the United Free Churchmen would not object to the principle of Clause 5. He believed they did object to it, but the position was this: They were offered the Bill with certain Amendments which would to a large extent meet the needs of their own Church, but those Amendments were offered on the condition that this fifth Clause was accepted with the amended form of the Bill submitted by the Lord-Advocate. That was a principle which they too often treated with in the House. Members of the Government, and he ventured to say the Prime Minister, on more than one occasion had offered to this House Bills on the principle that "I will do justice to you if you will allow me to do an injustice to somebody else." That really was the position of this fifth Clause in the Bill now before the House, and on the whole he regretted that the members of the United Free Church had not stood firm in demanding what the Lord-Advocate had given them in the amended form in which he proposed to introduce the Bill without at the same time assenting to the principle of the fifth Clause to which he believed they almost universally objected, because in assenting to this principle they were doing it at the expense of the Free Churches generally. He could well understand the anxiety they had to see a just Bill carried through the House, and he could well understand the vast issues at stake. The Prime Minister understood that, and he was perfectly sure he was playing a game in which he must ultimately be victorious, but he thought it would have been more worthy of the past traditions of the United Free Church of Scotland if they had determined to adhere to their own righteous demands without sacrificing a principle which must put the Free Churches generally into a position of disadvantage. Moveover, he believed that their friends of the United Free Church would have carried a Bill worthy of the claims which they made, because, whilst he knew the Prime Minister would probably have threatened the withdrawal of the Bill, he did not feel that even he, who was very often capable of defying public opinion, would dare to risk the withdrawal of such a Bill in the present state of religious affairs in Scotland and in face of the disorder which would be likely to grow out of such withdrawal.

The Free Churches of England looked upon this struggle with the greatest possible interest and sympathy, although he feared the admission of the fifth Clause into the Bill would somewhat lessen the sympathy which would otherwise have flowed out in the fullest and freest manner. They felt that that clause contained a most dangerous principle, and by sacrificing the present advantage for the sake of a great principle, they would perhaps have found the easiest way out of the difficulties which now surrounded them. Like his hon. friend who had preceded him, he would not enter into those matters which entirely affected the interests of Scotch Members, but, in acceding to the Bill with this fifth Clause in it, he felt they would be conceding a principle to which they were diametrically opposed. The attitude of the Free Churches was very easily defined. They believed that every Church had a right to proclaim its own creeds and Confessions; but the clause in question dealt with what claimed to be a National Church, and therefore Parliament, in their opinion, should keep complete control over its property. The fifth Clause proposed to make a stupendous change. It was like the Redistribution Bill. It was very simple, but it had to do with great constitutional questions which had occupied the attention of many of the ablest ecclesiastical minds, as well as lay minds, for generations past. It would give to the General Assembly, or to Convocation if the same principle were carried out in England, the disposal of all that property which was regarded as national property with no responsibility resting upon it as to the creed to which it adhered. Therefore it claimed all the advantages without the disadvantages which they felt belonged to a National Church. He thought that the argument had not been recognised with regard to freedom of conscience and liberty of subscription and so forth. They contended that those things were incompatible with a National Church, and that if a Church claimed, as they thought it ought to rightly claim, religious freedom in these respects, it could only do so by resigning those emoluments and properties which it had in trust for the nation. It submitted in a sense to be handcuffed, and yet wanted to slip those handcuffs and enjoy freedom whenever it saw fit to do so.

Down to a certain period in our English history Royal hands were laid upon this property and it was dealt with as they thought best until limited by Parliament. Then the property was transferred to Parliament, and right down from that time to now it had always claimed to exercise its authority over it. Therefore the title, he thought, was good enough for the contention he placed before the House. It is for those who supported the clause to justify the change which it brought about. They had to convince Parliament that it had no claim over a Church which claimed to be a National Church holding property on behalf of the nation, and that it had no more control over such Church than it had over Nonconformist Churches which had never held allegiance to Parliament at all. Perhaps it might be thought a matter in which he, as a Free Churchman, had no right to interfere, but they claimed to have certain rights in connection with the National Church so long as it remained allied to the State. To what extent could a National Church alter its beliefs and still remain the same Church and have the same hold upon the properties entrusted to it by the nation? There, he thought, was the gist of the whole matter. The question presented to many members of the Established Church now was how far could a Protestant Church go towards Romanism without sacrificing its claims to be considered a Protestant Church and, therefore, losing its claim upon properties which it now administered on behalf of the nation. He contended that the fifth Clause asked Parliament to resign its control over the Confessions and formulæ of the Established Church, and that was the serious part of it in their judgment. If that clause passed, the General Assembly in Scotland would have power to subscribe practically to anything which the predominant party in that General Assembly might desire to carry. He thought the clause far too serious a one to be inserted in a Bill brought in for another purpose, and that it was far too serious a question for a Parliament in senile decay to attempt to settle when it had engaged the attention of the ablest men in this country for generations past. If the Church of Scotland desired to complete its freedom and to have none of those restrictions referred to, it knew the way by which that freedom could be obtained. It could not in its present position deny the right of Parliament to interfere, and could not ask Parliament to give it complete liberty in regard to matters of its belief. It had only to follow the example of those Churches relying on voluntary aid instead of State funds to secure that precious inheritance.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out all the words after the word 'That,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'in the opinion of this House no approval should be given to any measure which has the effect of giving an Established Church the right to change or modify its creeds, or any formula of subscription thereto, without such change or modification being submitted and specifically sanctioned by Parliament.'"—(*Mr Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that without in any way attempting to throw any disparagement upon the speeches of the mover and the seconder of this Amendment he should like to recall the the House to the provision which was intended to be made by this Bill for settling this question in Scotland. He joined in the satisfaction which had been expressed in regard to what the Lord-Advocate had said in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, for he had removed a great many difficulties out of their path by the changes which he had announced on behalf of the Government. The Lord-Advocate knew that there had been some dissatisfaction with several of the provisions in this Bill, but the majority of those difficulties had been removed by his statement and so they might now expect a comparatively easy passage for the Bill. He did not deny that there were some questions which still required very careful consideration, but a great many of the difficulties which previously existed had now been removed. He did not quite follow what the Lord-Advocate conveyed by his reference to the free funds. He did not know whether he considered the fund belonging to the colleges were free funds.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I meant free in this sense, that they would be available for the education of ministers of the Free Church.

MR. BRYCE said he did not dissent from that view, but he thought that it would require some further consideration when they reached that point. He would now say a few words about the sustentation fund and the provision for the legal Free Church. It was very difficult to put an interpretation upon the words "adequate provision," for that might mean a great deal. He thought it would have been a great deal better, considering what an admirable Report the Commissioners gave them and how thoroughly they appeared to understand the question, to have left them rather more freedom than the use of the words "adequate provision" would give them. He felt uneasy lest the Commissioners should think that they would be tied by the word "adequate" to make a provision for the legal Free Church which would be, so to speak, adequate to bring the incomes of its ministers and manses up to that obtained from the sustentation fund previously. Before they agreed to the principle of saying that funds must be taken from the United Free Church to make a full and ample provision for the legal Free Church, he thought the House should consider what the actual facts were. The congregations of the legal Free Church had nearly always been small and poor congregations. According to the admirable principles laid down and enforced with so much eloquence by Dr. Chalmers they had been supported by the rest of the Church and in particular by the richer congregations. The endowments of the sustentation fund had given them this assistance, and the annual gifts which the poorer congregations had received in addition to the income from the sustentation fund had also come from the richer congregations. The richer congregations belonged to the United Free Church and the poorer congregations to the legal Free Church. These richer congregations had now a new burden thrown upon them, and they would have much to do in the way of supplying the property which the decision of the House of Lords had taken from them. They would have to expend larger sums, not only for their own poorer congregations, but also to make up what they had lost in other ways. Was it right that, in endeavouring to allocate property between these two religious bodies, they should consider that everything was to be taken from the United Free Church to supply all the needs of the legal Free Church? He submitted that that would be going a good deal too far and this Bill, even after allowing for the alterations which had been suggested by the Lord-Advocate, was too much in the direction that full provision must be made for the legal Free Church at whatever cost to the other Church. It was all very well to be generous, but they must look at the facts and at what had been done by the two parts of the community which had now been separated into these two Churches. It would be a very great hardship to impose upon the United Free Church majority the obligation of requiring them to take from their libraries and buildings, and from their funds, all that might be supposed to be necessary for the purposes of the congregations of the other Church.

He would turn now to the question which had raised a certain measure of controversy—he alluded to the question raised by Clause 5. It should be remembered that this Bill was properly an emergency Bill which had been brought in to deal with an acute question which, if not dealt with, might give rise to social disorder. Although the people of Scotland had, as a rule, a great deal of restraint and control over their feelings, he might say that upon this question those feelings had run very high, and if a measure of this kind was not immediately passed nobody could say what would happen in Scotland. It was a Bill which dealt with the question of property only and property between two Churches, neither of which was an Established Church. There had suddenly arisen a new and large question which raised enormous and wide issues which stretched far beyond anything contemplated when the Bill was first promised. This was a question which effected not only the clergy but the laity of the Established Church, because the laity were profoundly affected by anything which affected the Church. When a clergyman was appointed and there was a new creed every member of the congregation was affected, and the security which the members of the congregation had before was removed. What was now proposed was nothing less than a provision that the Established Church of Scotland should be allowed to change its creed. It was said by the Lord-Advocate that the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland was composed of laymen as well as clergymen, but the Lord-Advocate must know that the representation of the laity in that Assembly did not prevent the clergy, owing to their superior knowledge, powers of speech, character, and influence, from exercising a predominating influence and consequently the security of the Scottish laity was really to be found in the control of Parliament.

The Lord-Advocate gave an interesting historical sketch of what happened in 1693, and he drew the moral that we should do what was done in 1690. The Parliament of 1690 and the people were not satisfied with the way matters were left at that time. Although the nation and the Church were then regarded as coterminous, still the General Assembly was not considered a body to be left entirely to itself in a matter of such gravity, and consequently Parliament stepped in, in 1690, and considered that this was a question which affected the whole laity, and, therefore, nothing else than a council of the nation could deal with it. Consequently they decided that they would not leave the question in the hands of the assembly, and they took it over themselves. That action had been allowed to remain good from that date until now, and until quite recently no question was raised as to Parliament being the proper body to deal with a matter of such extreme gravity and importance. It was nothing less than changing the creed of the country. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No, no!"]. Hon. Gentlemen opposite said "No, no," but he would endeavour to make that point clear. The proposal of this Bill was to allow the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to alter the form of subscription, and that, in his opinion, was altering the creed. He thought the Attorney-General would not deny that that was the case. That was the whole burden of this controversy. With every deference to the authorities he saw before him, he submitted that there were many formulæ, which would be within the meaning of Clause 5, which would be entirely different from the declaration of assent which was made by a minister now when he took his declaration. Let them suppose, for instance, this formula: "I assent to the Confession of Faith in so far as the same is agreeable to Holy Scripture." With great deference to the Attorney-General, he was not prepared to accept his *ipse dixit* on that question. He thought there were forms which would be more complicated, and which would give more opportunity for captious criticism. He thought that was a form which would be within the term of the clause. It would be a formula of subscription to the Confession of Faith, and yet it would be a formula under which very large liberty of confession would be left in the individual case. He did not deny that the matter was open to controversy, but he did not admit for a moment that the Attorney-General was right in saying that a Court would reject that as not within the meaning of Clause 5.

Should an Established Church possess the power of making its own creed or altering the formula of subscription? Why did the State in the seventeenth century establish a particular Church? It was because that Church held the truth as delivered by Christ and His Apostles. It did not choose the Church from a particular body of men; it chose the Church because it held the doctrine which the State believed to be true. The nation said, "We believe this creed to be true, and therefore we adopt it, and establish the Church accordingly." It was the act of the nation, and not the act of the Church, or, rather, it was the act of the nation acting in its capacity as a Church, because they were assumed to be identical. Well, they had passed a long way from those times. The nation and the Church were no longer identical. The nation now consisted very largely of persons who did not belong to the Church. In the Presbyterian Churches there were about a-half, broadly speaking, who did not belong to the Established Church, and if they took the whole of the population, church-goers and non-church-goers, it would be still more apparent that the Church and the nation were no longer coterminous. Was it right and proper that the nation should abrogate the function which it had hitherto held of determining what was to be the creed of the National Church, and leave that to a body which no longer represented the nation, but only a particular part of it? That was really the main question which they had now to discuss. It would involve a very protracted discussion, and, therefore, he would not attempt to examine at present the propositions which were submitted by his hon. friends the Members for the Morley Division of Yorkshire and North-West Norfolk, who brought this question before the House in an Amendment. It might be that they would have to argue that in Committee. It would take a long time to argue it now, and, therefore, he preferred to leave it to the Committee stage. But he did desire to emphasise the point before passing from the matter, that, so far as he knew, there was no Established Protestant Church in the world which left the determination of the faith of the nation to an ecclesiastical assembly. It was certainly not so in Germany and Holland. The Roman Catholic Church was in an entirely different position. It was the Church Universal according to its own claims. It was the Church which claimed to be the universal Christian Church of the world. Where it was established it was established not in respect of any Act of Assembly. It was established in respect of the doctrine which was held to be the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church as declared by the Pope, or the General Council, or the Pope and the General Council combined. That was a very different position from the position taken up by any Protestant Church. He asked, and he hoped he would have an answer, whether there was a Protestant Church in the world which left, as this Bill proposed to do, the determination of the national faith to an ecclesiastical power.

Let him examine one argument raised by the Lord-Advocate. He said that it had become necessary to restore to the Established Church the position of freedom which would enable it to compete with the United Free Church. He must say that there was something distasteful to him in talking about competition between Churches. It was rather unfortunate, he thought, that this Bill should be put forward as a method of securing competition betwen two Churches. That was not the spirit in which they were accustomed to approach these questions in Scotland, and he was sorry to think any countenance should have been given, no doubt quite unintentionally, to that view by any language used by the Lord-Advocate.

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: You have misrepresented my argument. I used no language which would convey to anyone the meaning which the right hon. Gentleman says.

Mr. BRYCE: I am very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman's explanation. My observation was founded on the remark that "this is a handicap" to the United Free Church. I understand that he withdraws the expression.

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: I do not withdraw the expression. I object to the misrepresentation of the expression.

Mr. BRYCE said nothing was further from his mind than to misrepresent the Lord-Advocate, and he was very glad to have elicited the explanation that nothing of the kind was present in the mind of the right hon. and learned Gentleman. He thought the best way would have been to withdraw the expression. The remark of the Lord-Advocate appeared to him to be founded on a misconception. He seemed to think that something was being done by this Bill to give to the United Free Church a freedom which it did not previously possess, but that was not the fact. What had happened was this. The United Free Church conceived itself, until the House of Lords gave decision, to be the Free Church of Scotland as it had gone on from 1843. The House of Lords had said it was not so. It had said: "You are a new body altogether, you are not the old Free Church." That body did not wish any gift of freedom from the Government. It had its freedom already, and enjoyed it as a new body. Therefore, there was a complete misconception on the part of the Lord-Advocate, and it was one which was shared by his right hon. friend the Member for Partick. He saw nothing in the rest of the Bill to justify the introduction of this novel and highly controversial element. He thought this was a very great question to be undertaken at this part of the session. He ventured to believe that the proposed change was not accepted with perfect unanimity in the Established Church itself. They had all received satements purporting to come from organisations of the Church protesting against it, and he thought time ought to be given for the due expression of the opinion of the Established Church as to whether or not they desired this change to be made.

There was one other point to which he wished to draw attention. It was the provision in this clause in regard to Universities. Now the House knew that it was only in the Faculty of Divinity in the Scottish Universities that tests were still imposed on the professors, all other tests having been abolished. The Royal Commission on the Scottish Universities was directed to make a special Report on this question. The Royal Commission made a special Report in 1892 in which, by a majority, they recommended the abolition of tests in the theological faculties. That Report was signed by extremely influential members—by Lord Elgin, by two Judges of the Court of Session, and by three gentlemen belonging to the Conservative Party; so that it was in no way a Party question. No Party issue was raised. This deliverance was given on the ground of what was best for Scotland and the Scotch Universities; and the majority of the Commission observed that to maintain the tests was most unfair to the other Churches. This Bill proposed not only to provoke and maintain, but to aggravate, that feeling. Hitherto the tests had been imposed by Parliament, but this Bill proposed to leave it to an ecclesiastical body which was no longer representative of the nation, but only of a part of the nation, to impose any test it pleased upon the Chairs in the theological faculties of the national Universities. It declared the Universities to be *pro tanto* not national but denominational. That was an unheard of novelty and it had created great astonishment in Scotland that the Government should have taken the opportunity of this Bill to try to sectarianise the Scottish Universities. Although the tests had remained under the Established Church, it was in virtue of an Act of Parliament; they were not imposed by the Church itself. This was a matter which would require to be dealt with in Committee. He proposed to move an Amendment in Committee which would have the effect of throwing open these Chairs, as was proposed long ago by the Royal Commission, and, as he thought, the general opinion of Scotland desired.

They were all glad that the Government should have chosen the Commission which they had done. They had confidence in the gentlemen composing that Commission, and wished that it should have, if possible, wider discretion than the Bill gave it, because they believed it would be wisely exercised, and that it was extremely difficult to state in the words of an Act of Parliament the precise principles which ought to be applied. He was quite sure they would all join in desiring for this Commission that blessing which had been promised to those whose labours made for peace.

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbrightshire) said he desired to speak only a few words on this occasion. He must say he was somewhat disappointed in the latter part of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman opposite; but in the first part of his speech the right hon. Gentleman spoke very convincingly of the Bill as being all for the good, and he seemed to think that the Government had, on the whole, satisfactorily devised a scheme to adjust the claims of the two Churches. He also predicted that the Bill would have a comparatively easy passage through the House so far as his friends were concerned. He hoped that that would be the case. It was all-important that this Bill should be read a second time, and passed through all its stages as speedily as possible, to show the country that they were all in earnest in this matter. If that were not the case the result might be painful, and in some respects worse than painful. He did not wish to stir up any Party feeling whatever. He viewed this question from an entirely non-Party standpoint. They all knew the circumstances since the decision of the House of Lords was given. They also all knew that it was absolutely impossible to satisfy everyone concerned in every detail. There must be compromise, and there must be give and take. The Free Church in the meantime was master of the whole of the revenues as well as of the whole of the buildings and lands, and the United Free Church could hardly expect to get entirely what they had before; but, at the same time, they expected justice to be dispensed by the Commission. In that case he was satisfied that this Government Bill was the only engine to bring about that result, although he could not say he agreed with every sentence in it. On the whole the Bill was wisely conceived, and with the Amendments foreshadowed by the Lord-Advocate, especially as to the non-alienation of the trust monies and of the legacies, he thought it would be a very good Bill for the purpose they had in view.

Let him say one or two words in regard to the fifth clause. The Leader of the Opposition asked why should not the elders be consulted as well as the ministers? The right hon. Gentleman really forgot the constitution of the Church of Scotland, by which one-half of the members of the General Assembly were elders. When they had this lay element in the General Assembly, and in the Presbyteries also, was it to be supposed that they would throw away any advantage, that they would not look on both sides of the question? The right hon. Gentleman said that this clause had been sprung upon the country. That was quite an inaccurate statement. The subject of the formula was mooted in 1877, and it had since been brought up five or six times in the General Assembly, and in divers ways. In 1889 there were sixty-four Presbyteries which approved of a relaxation of the formula, and only sixteen dissented, while four desired alteration. In 1900 the Presbytery of Auchterarder forwarded to the General Assembly an overture on the subject, and the attention of the General Assembly was called to it by Sir John Cheyne, the Procurator of the Church, who took a very active part in this matter. In 1901 a committee of the General Assembly presented a report on this overture, and in 1902 and 1903 the subject was discussed. In 1904 the resolution in favour of the relaxation of the formula was carried unanimously in the General Assembly. Therefore, it could not be said that the Church of Scotland or the people of Scotland were taken unawares on this matter. There was a general consensus of opinion in Scotland that the formula was obsolete. They were asked only to go back to the Act of 1690 from that of 1693, so that ministers might give a general assent to the Confession of Faith instead of making every word of that Confession their own. He thought this ought to be conceded to the Established Church of Scotland. In after years they would have in Scotland a strong Church like the Free Church. He would warn the House that the Free Church must be dealt with justly and fairly. It would not do to keep up old animosities. They could not forget that the Free Church had made great sacrifices for a cause which they believed to be sacred to their principles, and they had carried it out most nobly. The great point was whether one Church should get better terms than another, but they should bear in mind that union might be established between the three Churches, than which nothing could be better for Scotland. There was not such a difference between these great communities, and if they could help them by passing this Bill, and if the result were an United Presbyterian Church, they would have done more good to Scotland than would be done by any other measure they were likely to pass that session. There were many points which would have to be discussed in Committee, but he hoped the Second Reading would pass to-night, and that the Bill would be law within a few days.

*MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire), speaking as a Free Churchman and as a Scotsman, said his point of view was not exactly the same as that of the hon. Member who proposed the Amendment. He was very familiar with the theological opinion of Scotland, having followed it for forty or fifty years, and he felt an amount of sympathy for a clause intended to give a certain amount of liberty to the Established Church of Scotland. His view was that Churches should assist each other as far as they could. He belonged to a Church which had assumed liberty and paid very heavily for it, but that was no reason why it should not assist any other Church in obtaining liberty. During the last few years almost every Presbyterian Church except the Established Church of Scotland had sought to change their subscriptions to the Confession of Faith, and he hoped the House would deal generously in the matter and give, as far as possible, substantial justice to that Church. He quite admitted the present was a very inexpedient moment to raise such a question as the rights of the Established Church, and if he thought that perseverance with the clause would imperil the Bill he would certainly vote against it, but he hardly thought that would be the case. He believed the opinion of Scotland was practically unanimous that such a change was necessary, and he reminded the House that there was a far wider breach between the Nonconformists of England and the English Church than was the case in Scotland. He doubted if there was a single intelligent man who believed everything contained in the Confession of Faith. It was drawn up in an age of religious persecution, and was full of persecuting principles, and so every Church had made declarations that they did not believe in those persecuting principles. He could not conceive anything more demoralising than to require a man to subscribe to doctrines he did not believe in, and if they once destroyed truth in a man they destroyed everything.

He guarded himself against saying that it was not a reasonable thing to give to an Established Church some identity. He agreed with the right hon. Member for Aberdeen that there must be some limit. There must be real identity in a Church. If it was to be an Established Church there must be some means of establishing identity. It was quite possible to see a union between the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland such as had taken place elsewhere. He suggested that in place of Clause 5 the Government should adopt the exact language used in the Assembly of the Established Church this year. A resolution was passed unanimously that everyone subscribing in future should subscribe to the Confession of Faith as containing the sum and substance of the reformed faith. That would tie them down to what might be called evangelical doctrines, from which no church could deviate. He believed himself that the feeling of Scotland was entirely in favour of this measure of relief.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he felt the same reluctance that other English Members felt in addressing the House on a matter which Scottish Members regarded as of a purely domestic character. But as he thought the clause to which the Amendment now before the House referred had a certain bearing on all Established Churches, he wished to be allowed, as a member of the Established Church of England, to say a few words. He did not wish to enter into the merits of this controversy between the United Free Church and the Free Church of Scotland. He did not share the view that no change was made in the *status* of the United Free Church by this Bill, because it would be open to that non-Established Church to remodel, not only its formula, but its subordinate standards and Confession of Faith without losing its property at the will of a bare majority, whilst the minority, however strong, would have no Parliamentary title. That was a considerable change. A similar change would be brought about by the clause under discussion with regard to the Established Church of Scotland, in so far as the formula of subscription was concerned. There was no question of relaxation about Clause 5. What was done by Clause 5 was that it abolished from the Statute book the present formula of subscription dating from 1693, leaving it to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to substitute such formula of subscription from time to time as seemed to them good. From the point of view of an Established Church that seemed to him to be a fundamental change, and he could not understand the frame of mind of those who thought the form of subscription was a secondary matter. It was perfectly true that the present intention of the General Assembly had been expressed in the direction of a relaxation of the formula of subscription, but practically what the State said to the Church of Scotland by the fifth clause was this, "Your subordinate standards and Confessions of Faith will remain on the Statute-book, but the terms by which you secure unity from your individual adherents can be modelled as you please, we want to know nothing about it, and no inquiries will be made." He thought that was a very remarkable change to bring about in the relations between the State and the Church as they had known it in this country, and even in some Continental countries.

He could not understand the frame of mind of some hon. Members on his side of the House, who seemed to think that the real formula of subscription was quite a secondary matter. Why, in the Church of England it was everything. From his point of view, the formula was in some ways more important than the subordinate standards. If His Majesty's Government would only keep the formula of subscription in their minds they could almost do anything. So far from disestablishing Churches, he did not see why something should not be done to establish every Church. Why should not all their creeds be on the Statute-book? Why should not a formula be invented, a theological master-key, which would fit them all? The only drawback would be that you might have a Church so comprehensive that no one would comprehend it. If it were once recognised that formulæ of subscription were in some cases of more importance than the standards, then he thought they would appreciate the true bearings of this momentous change.

With the terms of the Amendment before the House he did not altogether agree, but, to use a phrase which he thought not inappropriate, with "the sum and substance" of the Amendment he completely agreed. He had not the least desire to withhold spiritual liberty from the Established Church of Scotland. He wished to make that point clear. If it were a question of the relaxation of the formula of subscription, he would be the last man in the House to get up and oppose it. The Church of Scotland was so democratic that he had not the least fear of a relaxation, but what he did feel was that the Government in introducing this particular point had raised the whole question of Establishment as between Church and State. If the proposition were, as the hon. Gentleman who last spoke suggested, something that would give them in the Statute-book the formula which it was proposed to adopt, which would give to Parliament the power of review, then he thought there might be a great deal to be said for the clause as it would then appear. But the clause as now drafted appeared to him designed not to keep the Church in connection with the State, but to put all Established Churches in the extraordinary position that whilst the State maintained their standards upon its Statute-book it was to have no further real concern in their spiritual development.

He did not see his right hon. friend the Prime Minister present, but for some time past he had felt the greatest desire to put to him one question: What did he think was meant by a State establishment of religion? He knew no man more competent to answer a question of this kind, and he would gratify the House if he would tell them what, when this Bill had been passed, was going to be left of the ideas which had hitherto governed the relations between Church and State. Surely a State, in choosing a particular Church to represent it, affirmed that in that Church lay the national idea of religion, and that that Church was the most proper vehicle for its expression. How was it then possible, putting aside all questions of temporalities and pounds, shillings, and pence, for the State to say, as he maintained it did, if it passed Clause 5, that it was absolutely of no concern what turn spiritual events might take in that Church, which was the national embodiment of religion? How was it possible for a member of the Church of England to contemplate without alarm a precedent of that kind, which possibly sooner or later might be applied to his own Church. He hoped the Government would see their way to modify the clause. As the country South of the Tweed became possessed of the real significance of it, he was quite convinced it would excite considerable apprehension. He sympathised so strongly in every fibre of his being with every Scotch sentiment in religion and with the warfare they had had to wage in times past for principles which he held dear, that he would be the very last man to do anything to arouse their susceptibilities, but, after all, there was a solidarity in the Establishment principle that could not be ignored. He hoped that this matter would be again considered by the Government. The General Assembly did not ask for what was proposed in the Bill. They asked for something much less and quite different, and he was quite sure if time were given for consideration some modification would be found possible which would enable them to withdraw opposition to a contentious clause in a Bill which they all desired should otherwise have a safe and speedy passage.

*Mr. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough) said he sympathised with the last speakers who said that it would be much better to leave Scotsmen to settle this question for themselves. Although they might be inclined to blame the United Free Church for want of consideration to the minority, they felt that by the introduction of the fifth clause in this Bill, England was brought into this question. They could not understand why a Clause which opened the whole question of the relaxation of creeds and the revision of trust deeds throughout the length and breadth of these islands should have been introduced accidentally in a Bill which touched a question largely of money, and which affected two Churches which were not established. It would not be very long before the effect of the judgment in the case of the United Free Church of Scotland would be felt among the Free Churches of England. Indeed, it was already being felt, and their trust deeds had been already challenged. It would probably be the fate of someone in the next session of Parliament to approach this House with a Bill relaxing the conditions under which trust deeds were interpreted, giving power to many more Churches than the United Free Church of Scotland to bring themselves in line with the spiritual feeling and intellectual standard of the thought of the day. A clause which laid down a principle so grave as that which was found in the fifth Clause of this Bill would naturally arouse suspicion, and be likely to create the impression that it was only the harbinger forecasting changes that might be introduced into the Established Church of England.

There were two ways in which this clause had been approached. One was to minimise it by stating that it was merely declaratory, simply the interpretation of a great historic creed, a little relaxation of the bonds. If that were so, then they were asked to sanction words in the form of a declaration and to explain away statements in a nonnatural sense. They were to introduce into the theological arena a diffentiation of meaning in clear statements of fact. This was certainly demoralising and would not be entertained in the world of business or in the domain of philosophy. Therefore on moral grounds they would be justified in resisting the suggestion that they were to allow religious teachers in any part of the country to interpret a creed in a sense in which they would not interpret any other formula and which they would scout under the ordinary conditions of daily life in the intercourse of man with man. If on the other hand this minimising was declared not to be the form desired then, in fact, as some speakers had argued, it really meant a revolution in the creed of the Established Church of Scotland. She was free to open her windows to the light to get into touch with the thought; the culture; and the revelation of to-day.

There could be a very great deal said in favour of the claim made on behalf of the Church of Scotland, and nobody realised more than he did the injury done to both countries from, he would not say the cast-iron, but the wrought-iron creeds which bound the religious bodies of to-day. The effect of it was shown in diminished attendance in churches, the want of support to religious movements, and the reaction in the spiritual and moral thought of the country. The liberty which was demanded was perfectly fair, and it should even go farther. To attempt to standardise the statements of theologians who lived 250 years ago, and to endeavour to encumber the thought of to-day, with its broader outlook and its larger knowledge with a fetish of ancient formulæ was doing great harm to religion, particularly among the working classes of the country. A great many of them on his side of the House, even amongst Free Churchmen, were in favour of this relaxation of bonds, were they not arrested by the fact that for an Established Church, the Government of the country assumed a sponsorship and there must be some kind of definition of its faith. The State could not support a chameleon Church, differently coloured at one time and another. That was one of the great objections to the principle of an Establishment. On the one hand it was necessary for Parliament to undertake the duty of definition. To enter upon theological discussions was inappropriate to that House. Members of an Established Church were tied closely to formulæ and creeds which they did not believe, and were driven to adopt every kind of expedient which intelligent men could devise in order to get behind them. [Cries of "Divide, divide."] With the freedom for which they asked, many in that House had much sympathy. How was that to be reconciled with the position of an Established Church ?

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

ADJOURNMENT (UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 10) (OPERATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW IN COUNTY GALWAY.)

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he did not suppose that any one would deny that the inauguration of a period of coercion in the government of Ireland was a matter of the gravest possible import, and the fact that this coercion *regime* was not open and avowed made the matter all the worse. The complaint he had to make was that while the pretence was held out in England that Ireland was to-day being governed according to the ordinary law, in reality the Government had entered upon a course of government of the country under exceptional legislation, which did not exist in any other part of the United Kingdom or the Empire. He was not there to defend law-breakers, but what he did complain of was that men under those circumstances charged in Ireland were about to be tried, not under the ordinary law, but under an exceptional law which existed in Ireland alone. In September, 1902, the Coercion Act, which had not been in operation for some considerable time before that date, was suddenly put into operation over a great portion of Ireland. A considerable number of counties were proclaimed by the Lord-Lieutenant. Sections 2 to 4 were put in force in those districts. Section 2 provided for the total prohibition of trial by jury, and the trial of serious offences by tribunals, consisting of deputies of the Executive Government. Section 3 provided that in the case of trial by juries in those districts, the ordinary juries could be set aside, and what were called special juries empannelled for the trial of the case. These special juries consisted of holders of £100 and upwards valuation, and it was not necessary to point out to anyone acquainted with Ireland, that that meant a very select and a very small body of the population. Section 4 provided that a change of venue from one county to another might be carried out. British Members might say that special juries and change of venue were things not unknown in Great Britain. Quite so; but those things in Great Britain were only to be obtained under the ordinary law by regular reasoned and argued motions made in the Courts, while under the sections he had quoted they were granted as a matter of course without any notice to the parties, without any argument—granted as a right on the motion of the Attorney-General. Under the provisions of the Act a number of people, including several Members of Parliament, were imprisoned.

But a change came over the spirit of the dream of the Irish Government, and they were told that those methods were to be cast aside, and that, owing to the better spirit shown both by the Irish people and by their rulers, a new era was about to commence, and that the ordinary law was sufficient to govern Ireland. And one of Lord Dudley's first official acts was the revocation of the coercion proclamation. Section 2, the most offensive of those proclamations, was withdrawn absolutely, and Lord Dudley himself openly gloried in the fact that he was able to put an end to coercion. Speaking on February 11th, 1903, a few days after the revocation of those proclamations, Lord Dudley said—

> "Prophecy was always dangerous, especially in Ireland, but there was abundant reason to hope that they were entering upon a period when conditions would be very different from those of the immediate past. The reports from the country were satisfactory, and they were happily able to remove much of the exceptional treatment which they had been obliged to impose in the earlier part of last year. He hoped with all his heart that those who were responsible for the Government of Ireland would never again be compelled to enforce treatment of this kind. Never in his life had he signed anything more gladly than the proclamation of last week" (that was the proclamation revoking the proclamation of the Coercion Act)." He believed, indeed, that there was a good time coming."

At that time the general sentiment of England was that coercion had come to an end. Immediately after that speech the prison doors were opened, a number of Members of Parliament were released, and they were told that coercion was at an end. But it appeared now that all the time when that pretence was made (he did not use the word offensively with regard to Lord Dudley) that coercion was at an end in Ireland, the Government were keeping up their sleeve a stone in the shape of the powers under Sections 3 and 4 of the Act which now they were going to put into force. Three or four or five months ago a cry was raised by the Press of Great Britain and certain politicians in Ireland, that coercion should once again be put in force in Ireland, and a conspiracy was set on foot to delude the people of Great Britain into the belief that certain parts of Ireland were in a state of disturbance and crime. That conspiracy was set on foot, as he believed, with the direct intention of forcing the proclamation of Ireland under further powers of the Coercion Act, and once more abolishing trial by jury in those districts. They all knew what occurred—how bogus outrages were reported at full length in the London papers, how the changes were rung day after day upon them, and how in every single case of such an alleged outrage it was proved on investigation that the whole story was untrue and that no outrage had taken place at all. The truth was that no outrages had been committed in Ireland, and the country was to-day, as it had been during all those months, in a state of crimelessness and peace which compared most favourably with that in any part of England, Scotland, or Wales. The hollowness of that conspiracy was exposed, with the result that the plot failed.

Another plan of campaign was then adopted, of trying to put in force those sections of the Crimes Act which were not revoked by Lord Dudley in 1903. At the present moment Galway was absolutely free from crime. The Recorder had recently said there was nothing unusual in the state of the country. But notwithstanding this fact the Government had arrested some fifty or sixty men, almost all of them connected with branches of the United Irish League, for trial on charges of unlawful assembly. His objection was that these men were not to be tried by any ordinary law but by juries made up of men who were their accusers. The object of the meetings which these men held was to promote the satisfactory working of the Land Act. He had visited this place of Galway. The situation there had been for a generation absolutely appalling. There was no spot in Ireland where so many magnificent grass lands were to be found, but alongside were these wretched congested districts where people could not wring from the soil sufficient to pay rent or to live. Unfortunately the district was cursed with landlords whose conduct could not be defended even by Colonel Saunderson—men who ground the faces of the poor and never made a concession to enable the people to eke out a livelihood. To these people the Land Act was a mockery; it had no meaning. These people had called upon the landlords to sell, and for the good of the country, and almost for the sake of humanity, to agree to enable the Act to work. There was no allegation that they did any violence or disturbance, and the only unlawful character attributed to the meetings was that they tried to bring public opinion to bear upon these men to put the Land Act in operation. The jury panel under which these people would be tried was made up entirely of landlords of the district and agents and graziers. Under such circumstances trial was a mockery, when one remembered that in addition the Attorney-General, as representing the Crown, through his position had the unlimited right of challenging any juryman who came into the box to be sworn and ordering him to stand aside.

While the pretence of trial by jury was still kept up they were sent to a special panel struck under the Coercion Act and consisting of their enemies; and then, lest one of them might be fair, the Crown could come in and pick and choose any twelve men they liked of the lot. If it was his case he would prefer to be tried by a coercion tribunal of two magistrates under Section 2 rather than be tried under the formality of trial by jury when in reality there was no trial by jury at all. The provisions of this section had not been put in force for over two years, and that was the point of his asking permission to move the adjournment of the House. From the time that they were told that coercion would be dropped these provisions were permitted to remain a dead letter, but now, for some extraordinary and unexplained reason, they were resuscitated and put in force. He protested against this action. He said the Government ought either to have the courage of their convictions and proclaim these districts under Section 2, abolish trial by jury, and try these men by two removables from Dublin Castle, or else they ought to leave trial by jury to its natural course. They were not doing one thing or the other. They had not the courage—courage was, perhaps, the wrong word to use in a case of this kind—they had not the audacity to proclaim Galway and abolish trial by jury nakedly and honestly, when in the view of their own Judges there was no crime in the district. On the other hand, they had not the fairness to allow these men to be tried by the ordinary tribunal. They had taken a middle course, and were relying upon nominal trial by jury on a specially selected and packed tribunal. This was a very serious matter. It meant the inauguration in Ireland of a coercion campaign, and of a mean, cowardly, and dishonest coercion campaign. He would far prefer that trial by jury should be openly abolished than that trial by jury should be maintained, while the substance and reality of it was filched away from the people. He would leave his hon. friends who were more intimately acquainted with the particular districts to amplify what he had said. He contented himself with declaring that he regarded this proceeding as the inauguration of a dishonest and cowardly campaign, and he invited the right hon. Gentleman, if he wanted to put in operation exceptional laws and powers in Ireland, to do so openly, and not to act in this way under the pretence of trial by jury.

Mr. ROCHE (Galway, E.) seconded the Motion. He said he would not have intervened in the discussion at all were it not that the vast majority of the men referred to by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford were constituents of his own. He was thoroughly conversant with all the facts of the case. He happened to be present when two batches of prisoners were tried before a removable magistrate. He was aware of the treatment which some of these prisoners received at the hands of the constabulary, who, of course, were acting on the dictates of Dublin Castle. One batch of prisoners, numbering thirteen, were arrested between four and six in the morning. They were taken out of their beds and were not allowed even to have their breakfast. They were driven into the Court House at Ballinasloe and kept there until about twelve o'clock, when they were brought before a removable magistrate. They had a farce of a trial, and were committed to appear before the Judge of Assize in about a fortnight hence. What he complained of in this particular matter was that the alleged offence took place more than a month previous to the morning of the arrest. During all that time recourse might have been had by the Crown to the ordinary law. The men might have been summoned, and he could assure the House that not one of them would have attempted to evade the summons or the responsibility attaching to it. But that would not gratify the graziers, landlords, and grabbers in the district. At the trial of four of the men, everyone of the witnesses swore positively that not the slightest intimidation was used towards them by the prisoners, and yet in face of that these four men were sent for trial——

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): No. Is it in order to discuss the evidence which witnesses will give at a trial that is now pending, and may take place within the next ten days?

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: He is discussing the arrest of the men.

Mr. ATKINSON: No. I should not have intervened so long as he discussed the arrest, but he is now discussing the evidence that witnesses will give.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: It is very undesirable to discuss the evidence on which prisoners are going to be tried, and I am sure no hon. Member would wish to say anything which would prejudice the trial.

Mr. ROCHE assured the House that he had not the slightest desire to prejudice the trials. Another complaint he made was as to the jury panel. The qualification on this special jury panel was £100.

Mr. WALTER LONG: That is only one of the qualifications. I do not intend to suggest that the £100 is an essential qualification of a special jury, but what I mean is that a £100 is one of five qualifications.

MR. ROCHE said some of the jurymen were in possession of farms from which tenants had been evicted. Did the House imagine that men of that stamp were going to mete out justice and fairplay to the unfortunate creatures who came before them? No matter what amount of coercion might be used he warned the Government that it would fail, and that the people of the districts concerned were determined to have their rights under the Land Act. It was the wrong policy to try to govern the country by prosecuting the people. If the Government wanted to rule Ireland with peace they must adopt Lord Dudley's principle of governing the Irish people according to Irish ideas.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said he was considerably satisfied that this debate had taken place, because the memory of the House of Commons and the country was short. The Motion and speech of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford served as a reminder to the House and the country that in some parts of Ireland the state of affairs, the state of opinion, and the state of politics, was practically as it was. If he had the temerity to address a Radical meeting in this country and he were to describe the condition of affairs in the agricultural parts of Ireland, not only would he not be believed but he should be called an Orange fanatic, traducing and caricaturing his country. He did not think that debate was meant for the House of Commons. He rather thought the debate was meant for Galway. Undoubtedly a debate of that kind might influence one or two men there, but whatever the Motion was meant for, one thing had astonished him in the speech of the hon. Member for Waterford. He said that the object of the meetings in Galway, the object of the National League in holding these meetings, was to further the successful performance of the Land Act. But in doing that why should they threaten? If hon. Gentlemen opposite contented themselves by holding meetings and explaining the Land Act and showing how the people could take advantage of it, he would be ready to admit that there was something in the hon. and learned Member's observation, but he could not understand how it came about that it was necessary not to advise but to threaten——

MR. JOHN REDMOND: There were no threats.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said the tenants in Ireland who refused to obey the law of a certain society, of which the hon. and learned Member was chief, were threatened. Over and over again he used to point out that there were two laws in Ireland—the law of the land and the law of the League. In the hon. and learned Member's view the law of the League ought to be supreme. A grazier farmer in Galway who had grazed land for years—whose ancestors had grazed land for generations—and wanted to go on in the same way should be allowed to do so without let or hindrance. The hon. and learned Member and his friends said he should graze land no longer. Often he heard of friends of his saying they were going off to India to shoot tigers or to the Rocky Mountains to shoot bears. But he could point out to them how they could get equal excitement at far less expense. Let them become graziers. A grazier in Galway had just as much right to remain a grazier as he had to remain on his land in the North. Even some of the hon. Gentlemen opposite had land, and they would think twice if they were asked to leave their land in order that somebody else should take their place. This was just one of those harmless devices that occurred from time to time in order to induce these graziers in Galway to give up the land they had held for many years. He would read them a resolution which had appeared in a report in the *Connaught Leader* on 18th February last. It was as follows—

> "That we strongly condemn the action of those who are not living in Clare Madden, as tenants or tenants' sons, to send proposals to

the Estates Commissioners for farms while the tenants are able to occupy them as an addition to their small holdings, on which they have suffered for years, some of them living on two acres, whilst this land is their lawful right, and we protest against any outside interfering. It is not in keeping with the national spirit to do so, and we will use the sword of the United Irish League against any such cool-minded, so-called Nationalists."

The sharpness of the sword of the National League depended a good deal on whether or not the Crimes Act was enforced. That Act had taken a good deal of the edge off. Of course, hon. Gentlemen opposite did not want the Coercion Act to be put in force. He asked any law-abiding man would England, Scotland, or Wales tolerate any organisation to deliberately go outside the law of the land and proclaim that a man should, under the penalty of the sword of the League, give up his land. They would be accused of exaggeration if they were to tell the people of England that these things existed in Ireland. As far as the juries were concerned the hon. and learned Member for Waterford condemned them. He would really like to know what sort of jury Mr. Redmond would approve of.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I have said over and over again that no man should be tried in Ireland except by precisely the same sort of jury as he would be tried before in England.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said the House of Commons had decided that the ordinary law was not sufficient to deal with the law set up by the organisation of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Well, as far as the jurymen were concerned to try these gentlemen he said nothing. What the House must remember was that this action of hon. Gentlemen opposite—and they had a perfect right to take that action—was part of a policy. The attacks which they were making on the juries in Galway—attacks which they made through the organisation of the National League—formed part of their policy. They held one view of that policy, and he held another. He did not judge the prosperity of Ireland by the amount of wealth in Ireland. He had always objected to that test, and when he had brought figures forward—and figures were awkward things—to show that Ireland was more prosperous hon. Gentlemen opposite rather demurred. Their argument was that population was the test of prosperity in Ireland. He did not hold that view. He looked at two well-to-do Irishmen as indicating more prosperity than six poor, struggling Irishmen. [NATIONALIST cries of "Oh!"] Hon. Gentlemen opposite disagreed with him. They desired that Ireland should be a great congested district—[NATIONALIST cries of "Oh!"]—composed, as far as he could make out, of priests, patriots, and paupers. That did not accord with his view of the prosperity of his countrymen. Irishmen were as intelligent as any other nation in the world, and he believed that if an intelligent Irishman was offered the alternative of becoming possessed of four or five acres of land or of going to America, Australia, or other countries where Irishmen always flourished, he would choose the latter. He did not think the proposal to break up grass lands, which had produced large numbers of cattle, and fill them up with a population unaccustomed to agriculture, to grow turnips and potatoes, would secure the prosperity of Ireland. On that point hon. Gentlemen opposite and himself were absolutely opposed. They had the right to ask this Government, or any Government deserving of the name, to secure even for the grazier the right which every subject of the King possessed to live unmolested on his own land.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway) said he had followed this debate with some interest, because it referred to matters affecting the county he had the honour to represent. The speech of the right hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for North Armagh was somewhat entertaining but not convincing. He had observed since he came into the House that the chief object the right hon. and gallant Gentleman seemed to have in addressing this House was to poke fun at the expense of the majority of the people of Ireland. If legislation of a beneficial character which had been passed for Ireland were looked over, and if the debates which preceded the bringing about that legislation were studied, it would be found that the right hon. and gallant Gentleman was invariably opposed to that legislation, and to-night he continued that *rôle*.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Will the hon. Gentleman say what beneficial legislation I have opposed?

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN: All the Land Acts, with the exception of the last one, which was of special benefit to himself. There was one remark which ought not to have come from the right hon. and gallant Gentleman, and that was in dealing with the poverty of the people of Ireland. He made it practically a crime for the people of Ireland to be poor; and he pointed out that in other countries where just laws prevailed Irishmen had risen from poverty to affluence. But why should Irishmen remain poor in Ireland? He maintained that the cause of the poverty of Ireland was the unfortunate, drastic, criminal, and cruel laws which, at the instigation of the right hon. and gallant Gentleman and the section he represented, had been passed by this House against Ireland. The people of Ireland had property, but it was stolen from them; they had means, but they were taken from them by the Party and class to which the right hon. and gallant Gentleman belonged, as was shown by the past history of their country. Poverty, therefore, should not be thrown into the teeth of Irishmen by the right hon. and gallant Gentleman. Irishmen might be poor in their own land, but it was through no fault of their own. When they had a fair field they were able to rise to the highest positions, even in the British Government as represented in other lands. The Grand Dukes, who had long held sway in Ireland, were the very men who had brought about the poverty of the country. When one of his colleagues in the county of Galway pointed to men who had been taken from their homes at four o'clock in the morning, not allowed to get breakfast, and put into a cart to be dragged to prison, the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General burst out into laughter. Was that a laughing matter? They might imagine they could afford to laugh; but they had not the confidence of the Irish people. They had never made a sacrifice for Ireland, and only drew their £7,000 a year! They were the judges and prosecutors in this case, and they laughed at their victims. They were the last men in this House who should laugh at this matter. In the King's Speech, at the beginning of the session, Ireland had no mention; but now they were to get coercion until the next general election had passed. The representatives of the majority of the people of Ireland would see to it that even the strong man who had been sent to Ireland as Chief Secretary would not have it all his own way in grinding down the people without having his conduct exposed in this House, and to the people of the country.

During his eight years' residence in Ireland he had been told that the people were struck down and batoned, but he had never seen anything of it until the case under discussion arose. He went to address a meeting in his county of Galway, and had no idea that that meeting would be forbidden by the authorities on the benches opposite, and had no reason to expect it. When he arrived at the meeting place he was confronted with a few hundred policemen. He had seen political life in other countries, and had been a Member of another House within the limits of the British Empire. Hon. Members boasted of the loyalty of the colonial possessions and of the attachment of Australia and Canada to the motherland; but if they attempted to commit such deeds as he had described in these lands, he wondered how long they could boast of having them! They knew what the policy of the Chief Secretary was in respect to the western portion of Ireland. The facts were brought out by the Leader of the Irish Party. Crime was the excuse for the imposition of this coercion policy. That day his hon. friend who represented the city of Limerick asked if the Judge of Assize in that district had been presented with white gloves, and the answer was "yes." The fact was that there was no crime there. And what occurred last week in Galway? There were only nine cases set down at the Assizes, five of which were for malicious injury, but not one of these five had been proved—all were dismissed. Crime was not at the bottom of this matter. It was that certain hon. Gentlemen opposite wished that persecution and prosecution should go hand in hand so that they might get some substance for their speeches on July 12th! He knew that the Attorney-General, when he came to reply, would mention that there were threatening letters. Fortunately some of these letters had appeared in the Press in England, when it was seen that there were practically no threats. What were the facts? Any man who went to the West of Ireland would at once be struck not only by the poverty of the people, but by the sight of ruined homes, evicted holdings, and big grazing farms. The right hon. Gentleman asked what right they had to dispossess a grazier from his farm? He, in return, asked what right had they to dispossess the poor people who were born on that land of their small holdings and give them over to the graziers? The result of all this policy was that the people were still fleeing to other lands to try and get there what they could not obtain in their own. He held that the land of Ireland should belong to the people of Ireland, who should be allowed to live there; and that the legislation should not be such as to make them hate the law. This House passed the Land Act in 1903 because it was said that it would bring peace and prosperity to Ireland. Why was it that peace and prosperity had not come? It was because the landlords would not sell, and because the people could not get the land which should be theirs. The people of Ireland had a right to meet together as the people of England, Scotland, and every other civilised country were allowed to meet for the purpose of forming a combination and keeping public opinion alive as to their wants and necessities. But, in the West of Ireland, they were forbidden to meet, and if they did meet they were dragged off to prison at four o'clock in the morning. He protested against such treatment, and against the policy initiated by the Chief Secretary in the West of Ireland. But, in view of the successes which had been won in spite of the opposition of hon. Gentlemen opposite, the Irish Members had no fear for the future. They were satisfied that in this, as in many other struggles, the people would get their land, and that the miserable policy of coercion would fail.

Mr. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said that there were two things which struck him in reference to the Motion. In the first place, so far as he could ascertain for himself, the matter which it dealt with was not urgent. It had reference to a state of affairs which began on September 1st, 1902, when this Act of which they had been hearing so much was applied to all these districts. From that date to this nothing had been heard about it. But suddenly, when the Act interfered with the progressive ideas of the United Irish League, it was found to be a matter of urgent public necessity to discuss it! In the second place, from the speeches made that night, it was perfectly obvious that the ideas of those on that side of the House of right and wrong, of crime and innocence, were as far asunder as the poles from those of hon. Members opposite. The views of hon. Members who had spoken were the same as those of the people in the West of Ireland, but they were absolutely different from the views of every right thinking and law-abiding man in England and Scotland. They said that the small farmers in Ireland ought to have large farms which were legally in the hands of other farmers so that these might be divided amongst them. He held that the graziers who were acting within the law ought to have the protection of the law. It was said that under the Act of 1903 these lands were to be acquired and divided, and because the lands had not been acquired, the people should take the law into their own hands, and that they were absolutely justified in bringing every possible influence to get possession of these grazing lands. The hon. Gentleman opposite said that the people were perfectly right, and he admitted that the object of these meetings was to get the grazing farms broken up.

Mr. ROCHE asked if the hon. Gentleman would deny that, during the passing of the Land Bill, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover said that the grazing farms would be broken up?

Mr. GORDON said that even if that were so that did not abate one jot or tittle his argument that it was absolutely indefensible to seek to bring that about by illegal means. The hon. Gentleman opposite said that the meetings in the West of Ireland were only to bring public opinion to bear on the matter. He would read a couple of resolutions which had been passed at these meetings. They had a plan of attempting to drive out all graziers in order to get their farms divided up amongst themselves. Did hon. Members opposite contend for a moment that resolutions of that kind came within the four corners of the law. These gross attacks were made upon the people who had a right to keep those grazing farms in their possession, and these resolutions appeared in such local papers as the *Connaught Leader*, in order that everybody in the locality should know all about it. The unfortunate grazier was not only subjected to words of abuse, but he often found that his liberties were curtailed and his freedom of dealing with others restricted, and probably his own life would be threatened and his cattle injured.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Will the hon. and learned Member quote to the House a single case?

Mr. GORDON said he would call the attention of the House to another resolution. [Nationalist cries of "Withdraw," and an Hon. Member: You are slandering your own countrymen.] He was glad to say that his own countrymen were law-abiding citizens. That kind of abuse they were all used to. On January 1st this year another resolution was passed by a different branch—

> "Referring to communications received in answer to letters sent to graziers we wish to state that we will no longer tolerate such a system——"

[Nationalist cheers]. He really was sorry that they could not call upon representatives on both sides of the House from England and Scotland to hear those cheers. The resolution continued—

> "tolerate such a system in our parish, and hope those gentlemen will reply to us by surrendering their farms on the 1st of April next, or if they do not" (and this was the cream of the matter) "we beg to state that we will bring public opinion to bear upon them very quickly."

Public opinion! They knew the form it took there. But, after all, was this to go on or was it to be stopped? If it were to be stopped was it of any use putting into the jury box the men who were the members of the same branch of the League at which those resolutions were passed to try the men who passed them? But what was the terrible thing that was being done? They had under the law provision for common juries and special juries in Ireland, and if a man had an action which might involve every farthing he had in the world, he had a perfect right to get a special jury of that county. That special jury panel was composed of people a little better off, and who perhaps had less sympathy with crime, and having less sympathy with crime they were chosen in the ordinary way to administer the ordinary law. [Nationalist cries of "Oh, oh!"] Was not the proper and reasonable way to have a jury who would act fairly and reasonably in the matter? Did the hon. Gentlemen who cried "Oh" assert that the special juries of Galway were as a body unworthy of trust? He was surprised to hear it. He could quite understand it if those so-called bogus cases were taken away to some other parts of the country, but they were tried in the county. Was it creditable that representatives of Ireland made that gross charge against the special juries of their own country?

A NATIONALIST MEMBER: It is against the principle.

Mr. GORDON: I do not think the hon. Member would think much about the principle if he did not fear that it would result in putting an end to what every man deplores. The House ought to reject this belated Motion, and reject it by an overwhelming majority. He was not going to contradict what the hon. and learned Member for Waterford had said about the Recorder of Galway, because he had not himself heard his speech, but the Recorder of Galway dealt with the urban area as well as the county. Sitting in Galway he would be dealing primarily with the urban constituency. ["No, No!"]

MR. JOHN REDMOND: All those cases which I referred to — cases of malicious injuries—were from the county.

MR. GORDON was not aware of that, but the fact remained that those meetings had been held, those resolutions had been passed, and meetings had subsequently been held so as to try if they could give effect to them. Those things were in existence, and if the law were applied to put them down that House ought to express its strong approval of such application of the law.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.) said he did not think that the House of Commons had ever listened to such a deplorable exhibition as the speech they had just heard from the hon. and learned Member who had just sat down. This exhibition of inaccurate statements and bad temper was due to the desperation of a Chancery lawyer—[Mr. Gordon here left the House]—who ran away when his statements were challenged. That was quite characteristic of a man whose one ambition was to become a removable magistrate in his own country. When he rose to point out the gross manner in which the hon. and learned Member had misrepresented what the Recorder had said he deliberately walked out of the House, and refused to listen to his reply. He commended to the attention of hon. Members opposite the tactics pursued by the hon. and learned Member who had abused and attacked his own countrymen, and had based his impeachment of the Nationalist movement upon a series of inaccuracies. There was not a single incitement to crime or outrage, and not a single angry word in any of the resolutions which the hon. and learned Member had read to the House, and yet upon those resolutions he based his statement that Ireland was seething with incitement to outrage. He could well understand how difficult it was for a Unionist Member of this House to understand the real situation in Ireland when the hon. and learned Member opposite was the type of Unionist who, in the name of the Union, came to the House of Commons and made the most scandalous charges against his countrymen which were based upon absolute falsehoods.

The hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh had given them once more the same old grotesque jokes and witticisms which were not witty, the same old attacks upon his own countrymen, and the same old appeals to the ignorance of his British listeners. Neither he nor any of his colleagues had brought forward a scintilla of evidence for the charges they had made. The hon. and gallant Member had stated that politics were just the same as they used to be. He wished to remind the House that only the other night Lord Castlereagh, the son of Lord Londonderry, was hounded out of a place in West Down by the Orangemen of the North. He ventured to predict that the hon. and learned Chancery lawyer opposite, who always grew enthusiastic when attacking his own countrymen, would also be hounded out of South Derry at the next election. The hon. and learned Member for South Derry, it should not be forgotten, sailed into Parliament on the cry of compulsory purchase in Ulster, and the very first vote he gave in this House was against compulsory purchase. He would, no doubt, go back to his constituency to give an account of his stewardship, and then he would once again appeal to their religious passions, to crime in the West of Ireland, and other considerations which would arouse racial hatred. Probably there would be no need for him to again face the electors of South Derry, because his ambition would probably be satisfied by an appointment as a removable magistrate, and then he would be able to put the Crimes Act into force himself. The hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh had justified the existence of these large grazing ranches by saying that Ireland was a splendid country where grazing could be profitably carried on, and, in fact, that it was "the fruitful mother of flocks and herds." The hon. and gallant Member did not say that when the Land Act was before the House. The reason why the Nationalist Members accepted the Land Act was because they believed that it would restore the evicted tenants to their holdings. In this way they were anxious that a brave and noble peasantry should spring up under decent conditions, instead of being compelled to go to America to be a source of bitterness and ill-feeling against the British Empire, and who would be a force which would have to be reckoned with in any possible differences between this country and America. The hon. and learned Member opposite had sneered at public opinion, but, perhaps, he would give the House a Chancery interpretation of how to solve a problem or undo a wrong without enlightening public opinion upon it. How was the Workmen's Compensation Act brought about, except by public opinion? By public speeches in Ireland, by riveting public attention on the grievances of Ireland, and by giving expression to Irish public opinion in that House, they had extorted from that House every remedial measure that had been passed for Ireland. And merely because they had adopted that constitutional method of calling attention to the condition of the West of Ireland the Coercion Act had been put in force, and sixty honest, decent men were dragged before a jury packed by the right hon. packer, the Attorney-General. He was much amused when the right hon. Gentleman jumped up and said that the £100 qualification was only one of the qualifications necessary for a juror. Possibly that was one of the things which the right hon. Gentleman learned whilst driving through Ireland in a motor-car during the Easter holidays. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would tell them what the other qualifications were when he replied.

The Prime Minister, the Member for Dover, and the Chief Secretary had admitted that there could be no proper solution of the land question unless the congested districts problem was satisfactorily solved. How was he going to solve it? By imprisoning the men who asked him to put the Land Act into operation? This was the strong Chief Secretary who was going to put down all agitation in Ireland, and to rule the nation with a happy hand, and the first thing he did was to bring the Coercion Act into operation again, because it would satisfy Lord Londonderry and the Unionist Members, and so that he should stand well with the ascendency class. It would be a great deal more manly thing to suspend trial by jury altogether, and to impeach these men before a tribunal consisting of two men in positions to which they had been raised by the ambitions of hon. Gentlemen opposite; thereby doing the thing fair and straight before the people of Ireland and England. But the Chief Secretary said they would proceed by trial by jury, and he proceeded to pack the jury. They were told that this was equal law, and that Ireland was governed by the same system as operated in England. If the right hon. Gentleman wanted war in Ireland he would get it. Stronger and abler men than he had endeavoured to settle the Irish question by coercion, but there never was a Chief Secretary, from Mr. Forster down to the Member for Dover, who had not learned that John Bright was right when he declared that coercion was no remedy for Irish discontent.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said it was not necessary for him to say, after the speech of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, that he rose with the greatest possible misgiving to take part in the debate. The hon. Gentleman had delivered a powerful speech, the great part of which consisted in a great deal of advice to him (the Chief Secretary). They had heard the old familiar statement that it was no use to try and maintain the law in Ireland.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon. Who said that? Did I say it?

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not interrupt the hon. Gentleman even when he made a most offensive and unfounded charge against himself. He had not stated his words, but he had stated what he thought was the effect of his speech. He adhered to what he had said. He allowed the hon. Gentleman to have his opportunity to traduce him and his character, and the least he could do was to let him have his say. He had warned him that fate would overtake him as it had overtaken his predecessors and that he ought to be dismayed. He had tried to find in the hon. Gentleman's speech some reference to the Motion before the House. That Motion was one for the adjournment of the House, moved by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, upon grounds which he liberally laid down, namely, that a great and serious crisis had arisen in which recourse was being made to coercive legislation. After that speech, how much had they heard of trials by special jury? The House would hardly believe that the whole of the case of coercion, as it was called, rested upon the action of the Executive in employing special juries. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down was very severe upon him because he said his interruption of the hon. Member for Galway was altogether irrelevant, and he sneered at his knowledge of Irish law, because he suggested that he interrupted that hon. Gentleman incorrectly when he stated that the £100 qualification was one of the qualifications of the special juror. That was not his interruption. He rose for the purpose of reminding the House that the hon. Gentleman was not quite correct when he sought to represent that there was only this particular qualification attached to everybody who served on a jury. As the hon. Gentleman knew, there were five classes who were covered by the special jury selection, and the class to which he referred was only one of the five. The main charge made was that they were falling back on coercion, but what on earth had that got to do with the question of the special jury? The House would hardly believe that they had heard in the debate that by employing a special jury they were trying these men by people who were prejudiced against them. He could not help thinking that this argument was double-edged. What was the argument of hon. Gentlemen opposite? It was that the Government could not trust a common jury to try the men, and that they therefore brought forward a special jury. What was their position? They could not trust a special jury or the Motion would not have been made. The allegation was that the special jury would be composed of men who were interested on one side or were not impartial. He would give the House the panel exactly as it was returned to him, and he would leave it to the House to decide whether there was any foundation for the charge that the employment of the special jury involved the assumption of unfair treatment of those tried. The numbers given were 293, and they were classified in the following way: gentlemen and proprietors, eighty-three; farmers, 148; merchants, thirteen; shopkeepers, thirty-eight; hotel-keepers, two; clerk, one; no special classification, seven; grazier, one. He submitted to the House that that was not a very solid foundation on which to raise the charge that by empannelling a special jury they were reverting to coercion and cruel treatment of the Irish people and were instituting an unfair trial.

What was the second indictment of the hon. and learned Gentleman, because his was really the only speech in which they found any attempt to justify the case put forward? He returned to the old familiar charge about a conspiracy which created crime in order to justify coercion, but he was glad to observe that he did not accompany it by other charges that they had in the debate in May last. He contented himself with repeating the charge that there had been within the last three or four months in the Press both in England and Ireland a conspiracy which had for its object a return to coercion. The House, perhaps, would be interested to know that so far as the Irish Government was concerned—and he was speaking not only for the Irish Government since he had been responsible for it, but also for the Irish Government before he became the Chief Secretary—it had never been actuated in its policy either in Ireland or England by any statements in regard to crime in the public Press in regard to which they had not been able to satisfy themselves there was foundation. He regretted as much as the hon. and learned Gentleman could do that in the Press either of England or of Ireland statements should be made in regard to alleged crime unless those statements had been most carefully tested and sifted, and unless they could be justified. Such statements might not only be justly described as an offensive libel on the county concerned, but they were themselves a most serious impediment to the maintenance of order. He would be the last to deny that cases of this kind had occurred. There had been statements both in the English and Irish Press of alleged outrage when there was no foundation whatever. On the other hand, he would repeat that the Irish Government, not only since he had been responsible for it but during the time of his predecessor, had never acted in Ireland or in that House upon allegations of that kind, never had they been included in their list of agrarian outrages, and never had they justified their action in Ireland by reference to any crimes of that kind. They had satisfied themselves that the facts were as stated, and had acted only as they believed their duty pointed, solidly in one direction. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that this was the dawn of a new era of coercion, and he said that for some years these particular sections of the Crimes Act had not been put in force. He confessed he listened with some surprise to the reference he made to the Lord-Lieutenant. He had never heard the Lord-Lieutenant quoted when he could not be quoted in opposition, as it was believed, to the Chief Secretary of the day, and what a poor compliment the hon. and learned Gentleman paid the Lord-Lieutenant if he accurately described his conduct! He described the Lord-Lieutenant as having signed with delight the proclamation which would put into operation these sections of the Coercion Act, and he proceeded to denounce the Executive for their action. But what an extraordinary position, if the hon. and learned Gentleman had rightly described him, that put the Lord-Lieutenant in! He was Lord-Lieutenant when the so-called policy of conciliation was adopted, and he was Lord-Lieutenant to-day. Did the hon. Gentleman suggest that while he was willingly Lord-Lieutenant then he was unwillingly Lord-Lieutenant now? If he did not, his reference to the Lord-Lieutenant was uncalled for, and his attempt to create a difference between the head of the Irish Executive and the Chief Secretary was one unworthy of the position he held.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said his reference to the Lord-Lieutenant was made with no such intention at all. His quotation from the Lord-Lieutenant was to show that they were led to believe that at that time coercion was over and was dead and gone. Now it appeared that was wrong, and there was a revival of coercion. Of course, he quoted the Lord-Lieutenant's own words. He should be sorry to do anything unfair to the Lord-Lieutenant. If there were any difference between the Lord-Lieutenant and the right hon. Gentleman it was not for him to say.

MR. WALTER LONG: Oh, no! I was not referring to what the Lord-Lieutenant said. I understood the hon. and learned Gentleman to say that he had no fault to find with the Lord-Lieutenant.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: No, I said I did not question his sincerity when he made the speech I quoted, and I do not still question his sincerity. Your interpretation was not what I intended at all.

MR. WALTER LONG said that in that case he would not pursue the point further. He would return to that part of the question that this was the dawn of a new era of coercion. He did not want to make reference to any action or policy of his predecessor in order to justify the action for which he was responsible, but, at the same time, it must be remembered that the two sections under which that action was taken had been in force for four years, that they were put in force by his predecessor, that they had never been repealed, that in the year 1902 they were acted upon by his predecessor in several cases, and that in July, 1903, the late Chief Secretary exercised the same powers which had been exercised by the Irish Government now. He thought, therefore, he was not unfairly straining his language when he said that it was not quite a fair description of the case to say that these sections had been in abeyance for a long time and had been suddenly revived, when it was a fact that in the time of his predecessor they were used in cases both agrarian and non-agrarian as late as July, 1903.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): Will the right hon. Gentleman give us the case?

MR. WALTER LONG said it was a case of riot and unlawful assembly, tried at Cork in July, 1903. The defendants pleaded guilty, and were discharged on their own recognisances. It was the very kind of case they were now discussing. The hon. and learned Gentleman had spoken about the present condition of Ireland. He (the Chief Secretary) had said before that he rejoiced to know that in regard to many of the classes of crime which had figured in the history of Ireland the condition of the country at the present moment was far more satisfactory than it had been. He shared in the wish that the benches opposite had been as well filled as they were at the present moment.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The other side as well?

MR. WALTER LONG said the hon. and learned Gentleman mistook his reason. He was not suggesting blame to the Leader of the Opposition, whose duties he was sure were sufficiently onerous to justify him not being present, nor was he suggesting blame to the right hon. Gentleman's friends for not being present. He wished they had been present for reasons which would not exist in the case of his hon. friends behind him; he wished they had been present because their presence would have enabled them to appreciate, as they could in no other way than by being brought personally in contact with them, the difficulties with which they had to deal. It was perfectly true that hon. Gentlemen below the gangway had cheered sentiments which hon. Gentlemen opposite would regard as altogether repugnant and detestable if applied to their own constituents. If it were represented to hon. Gentlemen representing county constituencies that the same pressure was to be brought to bear upon owners and occupiers of land in their constituencies to give up their land in order that it might be used for other purposes, however beneficial, as was to be brought upon the graziers of Ireland, he did not believe there was one hon. Member who would not repudiate, and repudiate with indignation, any such attempt. Yet that night the announcement of those views had been received with unqualified applause. There were other directions in which they must judge the condition of the county. When it was said there was a diminution in overt crime, that was not insufficient by itself to enable them to judge of the actual condition of the country. They had heard a great deal about grazing farms. In 1903, in the East Riding of Galway, there were nine farms and 1,670 acres of land unlet. In 1905 the number of farms had grown to forty-five and the acreage to 6,074. Hon. Gentlemen opposite cheered that as a satisfactory result. It was the result of the agitation they had been carrying on. This result had not been brought about by the voluntary surrendering of these lands, but they had been given up by men who would willingly have continued to hold them, but were afraid to do so because of the agitation conducted against them. The number of agrarian crimes must be regarded as an indication of the peace of the county or the reverse. From January 1st to May 30th, 1904, the number was seventy-five, of which forty-two were cases of threatening letters. During the same period in 1905 the number was 127, of which eighty were cases of threatening letters. Hon. Members received any reference to threatening letters with derision, but he believed that, if they were in the position of the people who received them, they would not regard them with so much contempt. The small cottier and the small farmer in Ireland were told, and they had been told in the House that night, that their continuance in their holdings was an outrage to those among whom they lived. If that intimation was accompanied by strong language and threats, was it to be wondered at that they should be alarmed?

He was inclined to believe that if those hon. Members who sat for English constituencies, and who were inclined to sneer at the dangers of these men, were placed in the same position, they would be the first to demand that the law of the land should give them protection. The hon. and learned Gentleman and his supporters had denounced the Government because they had fallen back on special juries. He thought he had shown there was justification for special measures in the condition of things in some parts of the country. Whether or not he had satisfied the House in that respect, he was content to fall back on the general proposition that he believed it to be the duty of the Government to give protection to all and to enable all to do their duty in the way they thought right, so long as they acted within the law. If in maintaining those principles he was guilty of the charge which was levelled against him by hon. Gentlemen opposite, all he could say was that he would bear it with considerable equanimity. He had reason to know that what had been said in the House that evening did not represent the views of all the people who were most intimately concerned. He had reason to believe there were many small farmers, graziers, and tenants in Ireland who, whatever might be their political views, were anxious that there should be freedom and that they should have the protection of the law. It had been said with great unfairness that the beneficial operations of the Act of 1903 had been interfered with by the action of his right hon. and learned friend. There was no shadow of foundation for that charge. The Land Act had gone steadily forward. So anxious were hon. Gentlemen opposite to drive home the charge of coercion that they had not said a word of acknowledgment of the good work which had been done by the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board in the direction they had advocated—namely, the turning of the uneconomic into an economic holding. Great steps had been taken in that direction. There were large districts which had been already turned into economic holdings. The responsibility lay with hon. Gentlemen opposite for retarding the operations of the Act if they made speeches supporting a policy which sought to bring grass land into the market by illegitimate and coercive measures rather than by supporting the policy of maintaining the law and carrying out the development of the Land Act of 1903 by legitimate and peaceful methods.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that one of the reasons why the Nationalist Members gave the Act of 1903 their support was that they believed the measure would deal primarily with the congested districts and the evicted tenants. The district which was the subject of this Motion was the one district of all others in Ireland where they looked for a remedy under the Act of 1903, and yet they found that instead of being dealt with the old conditions remained practically the same, the land still remained unoccupied, men were still evicted, and the war between Lord Clanricarde and his tenants still continued. It was a dishonest argument to bring the foul shadow of crime over this discussion when all over Ireland the Judges were receiving white gloves because there was no crime in Ireland. He knew that in Ireland in times of excitement strong statements were frequently made. He could, if necessary, give instances of similar statements having been made in this country. He confessed that he had listened with some trepidation to the reading of those terrible resolutions which had been read to the House by the hon. and learned Member opposite. What did they state? They simply stated that they would bring the force of public opinion to bear in order to see that the Land Act was carried out in those districts, and in his opinion they were quite justified in taking that course. Were the people of a country which was bleeding at every pore from the effects of bad government to be blamed because they insisted upon their holdings being increased under the operation of the Land Act by the addition of the untenanted land which was now given up to sheep and cattle grazing? They would not be men and patriots if they did not protest against this state of things, and bring public opinion to bear in order to obtain what was promised them at the passing of the Land Act. What was the remedy of the Government and of the right hon. Gentleman opposite? To put in force the Coercion Act. One would imagine from the euphemistic language of the right hon. Gentleman that the Coercion Act was one of the mildest and most innocuous processes of law that could possibly be, and the Attorney-General for Ireland assumed an air of pious and saint-like attachment whilst this beautiful system of special juries was being described by the Chief Secretary for Ireland. What did a special jury mean? The right hon. Gentleman had read out a list, but a more monstrous attempt at mystification was never before attempted in the House of Commons. He said there was only one grazier on this particular jury, but as a matter of fact there was practically nothing else but graziers upon it. Every man on that jury must have a valuation of £100. That meant that he must possess in Ireland 100, 200, and even 300 acres of land, and only graziers possessed that amount of land. Who were the men who sat upon these juries? They were landlords and land-agents. Mr. Tennant was one of them, and he was the land agent for Lord Clanricarde. That was the kind of jury before which these poor tenants were going to be tried. Besides this the Crown had an unlimited right of challenging jurymen, and he ventured to say that upon this particular jury the Crown would use its right of challenge until in the end these poor Irish, Catholic, Nationalist peasants would be tried by twelve of their bitterest opponents in creed, in class, and in interest. To call that trial by jury was a mockery. He wished to say a word or two about jury-packing. The right hon. Gentleman accused them of calumny when they charged these special juries with deciding against the weight of evidence. Had the Attorney-General never heard of the name of Sheridan. Why was Sheridan able to send four or five men to prison for six and twelve months, and for penal servitude, in Sligo? Why was Sheridan able to send those four men to prison for a crime which he and his colleagues had committed with their own hands? Simply because the Attorney-General did in Sligo what he was now proposing to do in Galway, that was to put into the jury box the political, the religious, and the class opponents of the poor wretches who stood in the dock. By that means, as the result of the blind class hatred which unfortunately still divided Ireland, they were able to secure convictions in the Sheridan case upon evidence on which any body of impartial men would have dismissed the prisoners. That was the issue which they were trying to-day, and that was a specimen of the equal laws and the equal justice which the Government were meting out to Ireland.

Question put—

The House divided:—Ayes, 136; Noes, 176. (Division List No. 240.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland
Buxton, N.E.(YorkNRWhitby
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, CaptE.C(SAndrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander(LanarkNE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan W
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex.(Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sr Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, JA(Glamorgan, Gower
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wills, Arthur W. (N. Dorset)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Donelan and Mr Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Agnew Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn. A.J.(Manch'r.)
Balfour, RtHn.GeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Lt. Col.HF.(Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A.(Worc)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North
Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Fellowes, Rt.Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick. S.W.)
Galloway, Wiliam Johnson
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, HnJ.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Henry D (Shrewsbury
Greene, W. Raymond(Cambs)
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Marq.of (L'nd'nd'ry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords. NW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(SheffieldBrightside)
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kerr, John
Keswick, Wiliam
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawson, Hn. H.L.W. Mile End
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, ReginaldJ (Portsmouth
Lyttelton. Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milner, Rt.Hn.SirFrederick G.
Montague, Hn.J. Scott (Hants)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Chas. Bine
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W.(Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Saunderson, Rt Hn.Col. Edw.J.
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, H.C.(North'mbTyneside
Smith, RtHn J.Parker(Lanarks
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)

Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, RtHn. J. G. (Oxf'dUniv.)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Walrond, RtHn Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt-Col, A. C. E. (Taunton)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton undLyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson-Todd, Sir WH(Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

WAR STORES (COMMISSION) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for the Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a third time."

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said he did not know whether it was the intention of the Government to press this Bill through this evening, but if so he should like to ask the Attorney-General a question. He understood that there was no compulsion in regard to the proceedings under this Bill. He believed that there was a general desire, both inside and outside of this House, that the whole proceedings of this Commission should be open to the Press. Already there had been a great amount of secrecy in regard to the questions to be dealt with, and he hoped the Attorney-General would be able to give them some reassuring statement in regard to this point. He was aware that it was open to them last night to move an Amendment securing this object, but as they were anxious to facilitate the business they refrained from moving any such Amendment. As things stood at present the whole matter was in the hands of the Commission. That might be a wise course or it might not, but he thought that there ought to be some instruction given by this House in the matter. The public were deeply interested in this matter, and he hoped the Attorney-General would tell them what the desire of the Government was in regard to this point.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said he also wished to press very strongly what his hon. friend the Member for Kirkcaldy had urged, namely, that the proceedings of this Commission should be made public. He thought there ought to be a Parliamentary mandate to this effect. He remembered when the War Commission was being established he asked the then Secretary for War, the paragon Minister, whether the proceedings would be public or not, and he gave the House a definite assurance that they would. As a matter of fact, they were not public, and instead they were furnished with misleading, wretched, belated, jejune, scanty, scrappy notes. Now they wanted to have this Committee open to the public and no hugger-mugger about it. He must have from the First Lord of the Treasury, who was accustomed to make promises and not so accustomed to keeping them, literally [Cries of "Oh"], some assurance there would be a Parliamentary mandate to this Commission that the proceedings would be made public, and that they would not be hugger-muggered and concealed from the public.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he had not looked into this Bill so closely upon the Committee stage, which was taken without discussion, but statements had been made to the effect that there was a clause in the Bill which provided that a witness who gave evidence could not be proceeded against even if he was proved to be one of the guilty parties. Take, for example, the contractors. The indemnity absolutely prevented any proceedings being taken against them. He should like that point cleared up either by the right hon. Gentleman or the Attorney-General before they passed the Third Reading. Another point was whether there was any provision in this Bill to provide for the taking of evidence under the same powers in South Africa as in this country, and he should like to know what were the views of the Government in this respect. It seemed to him that there was a loophole for the contractors to escape if it was found that they were to blame.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said he acknowledged frankly that as far as this particular measure was concerned, hon. Gentlemen opposite had done their best to facilitate its passage through the House. As regarded the particular point put to him as to whether the Commission should sit in public or in private, the Government proposed to follow the unbroken practice of allowing the Commission to settle for themselves whether their proceedings from day to day should be open to the public, or whether they should reserve a full disclosure until the fitting moment in their judgment, arrived. His learned friend, in consultation with the learned Gentleman opposite, came to the conclusion that in the interest of a true and full disclosure of all that had taken place, it was desirable to put in this Bill, as in many previous Bills, a provision which would enable any witness who could not otherwise give evidence without subjecting himself to pains and penalties to disclose the whole truth without fear or favour. There was no provision in the Bill for making inquiry under oath in South Africa. It was not desirable that the Bill should create a new offence in portions of the Empire not under the immediate jurisdiction of Parliament. As regarded the Transvaal they might secure such a provision, but they could not impose upon Cape Colony or Natal such an obligation. They had, however, some reason to believe that Cape Colony would favour the passage of a Bill of this kind, and if it were found necessary they would follow the example of this House. It would be eminently desirable that when this Parliament had passed the Bill, a similar measure should pass in South Africa, and nothing the Government could do to secure such a result would be omitted by the Government. That promise he gave on behalf of the Government, and he had every reason to think that no difficulty would arise with the independent Legislatures of our South African Colonies, but they would be as anxious as the Government to further the interest of truth by furthering investigation into the darkest corners of these complicated proceedings.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said that in the case of the Parnell Commission and the Belfast Riots Commission the proceedings were held in public. He thought it was a serious matter to give Commissioners such powers as were contained in this Bill, and leave a matter like this to their own sweet will. They had great powers in regard to witnesses, and he thought those powers ought to be exercised in public.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not know of any statutory requirement that publicity should be insisted upon.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) said the Commission would inquire into the question as to what had become of certain sums of money. He wished to know whether in case it was shown that any of the witnesses had wrongfully got possession of any of this money if there were any means of compelling them to disgorge it. Would the indemnity leave them in possession of their ill-gotten gains?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the Bill protected, or might protect, witnesses only if the Commission so decided. It was in the power of the Commissioners to protect them against criminal proceedings, but not against civil proceedings, and it was in civil proceedings that persons would be compelled to disgorge any money if illegally acquired.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

PUBLIC ROADS (IRELAND) BILL.

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill read the third time and passed.

FOREIGN SHIPS (STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS) COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That Sir Hugh Shaw-Stewart be discharged from the Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Evelyn Cecil be added to the Committee.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM FIRE COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That Mr. Malcolm be discharged from the Committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Guy Pym be added to the Committee.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) gave notice that the first order to-morrow (Wednesday) would be the Motion in the name of the Prime Minister with regard to the Aliens Bill, and that it might be necessary to move the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule before proceeding to that business.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said that in reference to the Scotch Churches Bill, greatly to their surprise, the Bill had been allowed to be interfered with by the Aliens Bill, and he wished to impress upon the Lord-Advocate the extreme urgency of this Bill. He wished to know whether the Government could give them any assurance as to when the debate on the Second Reading of the Scotch Churches Bill would be resumed. The next few days appeared to be already allocated, and it seemed a great pity that an important measure like the Scotch Bill should have to give place to the Aliens Bill, which was not at all so pressing. He hoped the Lord-Advocate would be able to assure them that this interruption would not be likely to endanger the passage of the measure.

The LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) said the Government were most anxious that the Scottish Churches Bill should be finished that night, and it was no fault of theirs that it was not finished, but that the evening sitting had, as he thought, been wasted. They were anxious to resume the consideration on the earliest possible date that the state of public business would allow

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) asserted that the delay surrounding the progress being made with the Scottish Churches Bill was due to the unwillingness of the Government, in the first instance, to introduce the Bill until the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had met and given the Government the cue to insert Clause 5.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said he could not allow the statement to go unchallenged that the Motion which they had been discussing that evening had been a waste of time. He reminded the Lord-Advocate that if the Speaker had not thought that it dealt with a matter of urgent public importance he would not have allowed the Motion for the adjournment to have been taken. It was a reflection upon the Chair to say that the time had been wasted, and what did the Lord-Advocate mean by it? He would not allow any Irish discussion in this House to be characterised by a petty Treasury official as a waste of time, and the Lord-Advocate had better alter his Parliamentary manners as quickly as he could. He noticed that the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury had put down for to-day the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill No. 2. Upon this measure he had given formal notice to move its rejection in order to bring before tht House a matter of imperative public interest dealing with military law.

Notice taken that forty Members were not present; House counted, and forty Members not being present:—

Adjourned at nineteen minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 5th July, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bristol Blind Asylum Bill [Lords]; Central Electric Supply Bill [Lords]; County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [Lords]; Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 2) Bill (by Order). Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

Central London Railway Bill (by Order). Second Reading deferred till Wednesday next.

London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Scheme confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).

Colonel **Welby** reported from the Committee on Group J of Private Bills; That the parties promoting the Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) (Belfast, Castlereagh, and Holywood Joint Board Order) Bill had stated that the evidence of Professor E. A. Letts, Professor of Chemistry, Queen's College, Belfast; Mr. Conway Scott, Executive Sanitary Officer, Belfast; Mr. M. J. F. Napier, City Surveyor's Department, Belfast; Mr. W. A. Currie, Secretary to the Belfast Harbour Commissioners; and Colonel F. F. Hill, D.S.O., Royal Irish Fusiliers, Holywood Barracks, county Down, was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that their attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Professor E. A. Letts, Mr. Conway Scott, Mr. M. J. F. Napier, Mr. W. A. Currie, and Colonel F. F. Hill, D.S.O., do attend the said Committee on Tuesday next' at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That Professor E. A. Letts, Mr. Conway Scott, Mr. M. J. F. Napier, Mr. W. A. Currie, and Colonel F. F. Hill, D.S.O., do attend the Committee on Group J of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the Clock.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LONDON TRAFFIC (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the Means of Locomotion and Transport in London, Vol. I. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Return of Prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated July 4th, 1905, amending the Schedule to the Minute of the 30th January, 1905, providing for the Establishment of Committees for the Training of Teachers [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated June 30th, 1905, granting to Mr. Clement Millard, superintending civil engineer at Portland, a Retired Allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

3430 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (SALES AND REFUNDS) (SOUTH AFRICA).

Copy ordered, "of Correspondence relative to the disposal of Surplus Stores in South Africa."—(*Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 228.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Irish Ancient Monuments—St. Mel's Cathedral.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the passage by the Longford County Council at its statutory meeting of a resolution asking the Board of Works, Dublin, to place the ruins of the ancient cathedral of St. Mel under the Public Monuments Protection Act; whether he is aware that this matter has been a long time in agitation in the district; and can he hold out any hope of action being now taken in this direction.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) This is the first intimation I have received of such a resolution. The passing of this or similar resolutions does not, however, affect the position of affairs. The cathedral ruins are vested in the representative Church body, and, until that body consents to their transfer, neither the Treasury nor the Board of Works can take any action for their preservation.

Irish Roll Tobacco.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that quantities of roll tobacco, manufactured in England and Scotland, have been sold to the public as Irish roll tobacco, with the result that a branch of Irish trade is threatened; whether any prosecutions have taken place in consequence; and what steps he proposes to take to prevent the perpetuation of this fraud upon the public in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Board of Trade has no recent information on the subject, but they are prepared to consider, with a view to prosecution, any specific case of infringement of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, which is submitted under the regulations which govern prosecutions. It is, of course, open to the Irish manufacturers to take proceedings themselves if they are so advised.

Edgeworthstown Loan Fund Society.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he will consent to the introduction of a clause in the Charitable Loan Funds (Ireland) Bill which will enable the Loan Fund (Ireland) Board to reimburse those debenture holders of the Edgeworthstown Loan Fund Society who lost their savings by the fraudulent conduct of the clerk, which savings they were induced to deposit on the assurance that the loan funds were supervised and managed by a Government Department, by which their accounts were regularly audited and who were responsible for the safety of their funds.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) No, Sir; first, because I believe such a clause would be out of order; secondly, because the Loan Fund Board have no funds available for the purpose indicated; and, thirdly, because I dispute the accuracy of the several statements contained in the Question on which the claims of the debenture holders appear to be based.

The Kerry Fishing Industry.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what assistance is being given to the fishing industry on the west coast of Kerry in the way of grants for boats and gear, training of fishermen, and establishing boatbuilding suitable to the district; and whether he will give the amounts expended under those heads in Kerry during each of the past five years.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Board do not make free grants for the purposes mentioned, but during the past five years they have made loans to fishermen in county Kerry as follows: for boats and gear, £6,697; for providing barrel-making materials, £2,802.

King-Harman Estate—Proposed Sale of Evicted Farm.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any report has been received from the Estates Commissioners or their inspector as to the sale of the King-Harman (county Longford) Estate, and the proposal of Colonel King-Harman to sell a portion of the evicted farm of a man named Fox to his own son, Captain W. A. King-Harman; and also whether the evicted tenant's son is to be allowed to purchase any portion of his father's farm.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners expect shortly to be in a position to sell to the evicted tenant's son the larger part of the farm in question, the vendor retaining the remainder.

Domiciliary Visits by the Police in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any instructions were given to Sergeant O'Gara, of the Ballinalee police station (county Longford), to enter the dwellings of the residents in the townlands of Lisameen and Drumnacross and take down the names of the male members of each family, stating as he did so that if any outrage occurred in the district he would know whom to hold accountable for it; whether he authorised the police sergeant to act in this matter; and what steps will be taken to prevent a repetition of similar conduct.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) No such instructions were given. On June 18th, at 10 p.m., the sergeant observed five men entering a house at Lisameen, and he followed them into the house to see who they were. He neither demanded nor took down the names of any persons, and said nothing about outrages. On June 21st, between 8 and 9 p.m., he visited, but did not enter, two houses at Drumnacross, to ascertain who lived there. It is the duty of the police to make themselves acquainted with the inhabitants of their districts. In none of these cases did the householders object to the sergeant's presence. I see no reason to interfere in the matter.

Property of late James Murray (or M'Gowan) in Rhodesia.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any further report from the High Commissioner of Rhodesia on the subject of the property or money said to be detained belonging to the late James Murray or M'Gowan, who died in South Africa.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) No further communications have passed with the High Commissioner on this subject, no reply having been received to the letter addressed to Mrs. Murray on November 8th last, to which I referred in my Answer to the hon. Member on the 8th of March. †

Post Office Savings Bank Deposits of late Ann Brown—Claim of Axminster Guardians.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the fact that the deposits, amounting to £81 1s. 5d., in the Post Office Savings Bank of the late Ann Brown were paid out by the Postmaster-General to her daughter, S. A. Bedford, within three weeks of her death, which occurred on January 29th of this year in the Axminster workhouse, without inquiry as to claims upon them which the guardians might have had, he can take any steps to secure from funds at his disposal the repayment to the guardians of the sum of £47 1s. 3d. adjudged to them for six years relief.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Payment of the deposits in Mrs. Brown's account was made on February 22nd last to her daughter, Mrs. Bedford, with the written consent of the only other next of kin. No intimation was received from the Axminster guardians of their claim till March 31st. The certificate of death stated that Mrs. Brown died in the Axminster Cottage Hospital; and I had consequently no reason to suppose that the guardians had any claim against the estate till the receipt of their application. I have no funds at my disposal out of which to reimburse the guardians for the expenses incurred by them in connection with the relief of Mrs. Brown.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 712.

Postage on Printed Matter to Canada.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the Postmaster-General whether complaints have reached him from printers and publishers in this country of the disadvantage the postage to Canada from the United Kingdom on printed matter, including newspapers and magazines, which is ½d. for two ounces as against one cent. for sixteen ounces from the United States charged to the publishers, and one cent. for each four ounces if mailed by others than the publishers or newsagents, inflicts upon them in competition with American printers and publishers; and whether, as the United States domestic rates for postage apply to Canada, Mexico, and Cuba, he will favourably consider the adoption of corresponding rates between the United Kingdom and Canada.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Representations on this subject have reached me from time to time; and the reasons for not adopting the course desired by the hon. Member were not long ago explained by me fully to a deputation including Members of this House. I shall be pleased to furnish the hon. Member with a report of the remarks I then made.

Indoor Duties for Provincial Postmen.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is now in a position to state the nature of the indoor duties for postmen in certain provincial offices for which, on the 26th January last, he promised to grant special allowances; also when he proposes to announce his decision to those interested.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I am considering in detail the nature of the duties for which these allowances will be given as well as the allocation of the allowances, and I will announce my decision in due course to the officers concerned.

Preferential Railway Rates for Foreign Imports.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to the preferential rates granted to foreign imports generally, and in particular to the carriage of meat; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made and a Report issued upon this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I assume the hon. Member's Question relates to rates charged on railways, and I would refer him to the reply given to a similar Question on the 21st February.†

Application of Crofters in Benbecula for Extension of Holdings.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): To ask the Lord-Advocate if his attention has been drawn to a decision of the Crofter Commission, in an application by eighteen crofters in Benbecula for an extension of holding on the farm of Nunton, when the Commissioners rejected the application on the ground that only eighteen crofters had joined in the application; and whether, having regard to the terms of the Crofter Act, which provide that only five crofters are necessary to make a statutory application, will the Lord-Advocate ask the Commissioners to reconsider their decision.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) I have inquired into the circumstances of the case referred to by the hon. Member. I am informed that the grounds on which the Crofters' Commission rejected the application for enlargement of holdings preferred by eighteen crofters in the Island of Benbecula were mainly as follows:—(1) That the eighteen applicants came from no fewer than six townships scattered all over Benbecula, and were resident in most cases three or four miles from the land applied for and from one another. (2) That the applicants share with some 200 other crofters in the same common pasture. The grazings desired are adjacent to the common pasture, and if assigned as an enlargement of holdings should be added to that pasture. Assignment of the lands in question to eighteen out of 200 would, in the opinion of the Commissioners, have caused much injustice to the great majority of the crofters. (3) That the applicants failed to satisfy the Commissioners that they were in a position to provide for payment of the stock on the lands applied for. The Commissioners appear to have considered the application with great care and in all its bearings, and the Secretary for Scotland does not see his way to ask them to reconsider their decision.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 756.

Liverpool Dock Labourers' Strike—Alleged Insanitary Condition of Quarters of Imported Men.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the President of the Local Government Board is he aware that, in consequence of the strike of dock labourers at Liverpool, the imported men are being housed and fed and supplied with drink by Messrs. T. and J. Harrison, in the Liverpool docks sheds; that in consequence an insanitary condition of things has been set up there; and, seeing that food stuff is stored in these docks, and in view of the danger to public safety, whether he will take steps to prevent the spread of disease.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I have not received any information with regard to this matter; but I will communicate with the Town Council of Liverpool on the subject.

Colonial Contributions to Imperial Navy.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what contributions are made to the cost of the Navy by India, the Australian Commonwealth, New Zealand, the Cape, and Natal, beyond the sums set out as appropriations in aid in the Estimates; and what is the sum contributed in aid from all sources.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) No contributions to the cost of the Navy, other than the sums shown in the Estimates as appropriations in aid, are made by the Colonies and Dependencies named. The total of those contributions is £428,400, made up as follows:—

	£
India	103,400
Australian Commonwealth	200,000
New Zealand	40,000
Cape Colony	50,000
Natal	35,000
	£428,400

Students Resident in English and Welsh Agricultural Colleges.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will ascertain how many students are actually in residence in the agricultural colleges of England and Wales; and how many of these students are the sons of tenant farmers.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) I will endeavour to obtain the information which the hon. Member desires.

Hyde Park Motor-Car Regulations.

MR. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will reconsider the regulation as to motors in the park between four and seven p.m., and exempt from it electric motors which bear on them in letters, the same size as the regulation number letters, the word electric.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The First Commissioner regrets that he is unable to make any exception from the regulation.

Outbreak of Plague in Madras.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether there have recently been outbreaks of plague in Madras which have been traced to intending emigrants housed in the emigrant depots; and, if so, whether any steps have been taken to remove the emigrant depots to some suitable position outside the city in order to protect the residents in Madras.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Two or three cases of plague occurred in villages near the emigration depots, but I am not aware that any case has been traced to the depots. The Madras Government may be relied on to take all needful precautions. The latest Returns of plague show that during the week ending the 10th June there was only one fatal case of plague in Madras city.

The Council of India and Indian Army Administration.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether a full statement can be made to Parliament showing how far, and in what manner, following the rules prescribed in Sections 23, 24, and 25 of the statute of 1858, the orders and other documents comprised in recent correspondence regarding the administration of the Army in India [Cd. 2574] were placed before and dealt with by the Council of India, and, in particular, if the despatch of 31st May was placed in the Council Room for perusal of all Members of Council during seven days before it was sent to the Governor-General of India; and can copies of any opinions or dissents recorded by any Members of Council during the course of that correspondence be placed before Parliament at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The procedure laid down in the Act of 1858 was strictly complied with in respect of the orders and other documents relating to Army administration in India which were recently presented to Parliament. If the hon. Member will refer to the Act, he will see that two courses are open to the Secretary of State in respect of a despatch which he proposes to send to India. He can either bring it before a meeting of Council, or can lay it for seven days in the Council Room for the perusal of Members of Council. The former course is the one usually adopted for matters of importance, and it is the one that was adopted on this occasion. The despatch of 31st May was passed *nemine contradicente*, and no dissents were recorded. As regards any notes or opinions which may have been written during the discussion of the matter, the established practice is to regard such documents as confidential and to decline to publish them; and I do not see any reason for departing from it.

Notification of Infectious Diseases in Belfast.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that on 22nd June, 1905, a woman appeared in the Belfast Summons Court carrying a child seriously ill with measles, in consequence of which her removal from the Court was ordered; whether the Notification of Diseases Act is in force in Belfast, and, if so, who is responsible for the case referred to not being reported to the proper authorities; and whether any inquiry will be ordered in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The incident referred to has not been reported to the Local Government Board. The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, is in force in Belfast, but the definition of an infectious disease does not include measles. The local sanitary authority are empowered by Section 7 to extend the definition so as to include measles or any other infectious disease, but they have not availed themselves of this power in regard to measles.

Belfast Traffic By-laws.

MR JOSEPH DEVLIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the prosecution of a number of drivers before the Belfast magistrates on 28th June, and to the fact that, the drivers having pleaded ignorance of the by-laws with a breach of which they were charged, the magistrates expressed the opinion that the by-laws had not been sufficiently published; and whether he will communicate with the authorities in Belfast, with a view to the sufficient publication of the by-laws referred to.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) A further promulgation of the regulations is about to take place. Placards containing the regulations will be posted up throughout the city, and copies will be sent to the owners of vehicles for distribution amongst their drivers.

Aldershot Camp and Tidworth Electric Lighting Stations.

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the electric lighting stations at Aldershot camp and Tidworth are to be proceeded with; and, if so, when; or whether the staff of electrical engineers who have been engaged on these works is to be dispersed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The completion of the electric lighting station at Aldershot and the erection of a generating station at Tidworth are provided for under the Military Works Loan, and will be proceeded with as soon as funds are available. The question of staff will be considered when the work is taken in hand.

War Office Contracts.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the rule of the War Department, as laid down by the late Secretary of State for War, Mr. Edward Stanhope, that two-thirds of Government requirements should be obtained from the trade, and upon the faith of which capital was expended by the Sheffield trades concerned; and will he take care that the rule referred to and adopted by himself and his immediate predecessors is observed as much in respect of bayonets as of other material of war.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) There is no rule that any definite proportion of orders shall be placed with the trade, except as regards guns, which, in the past, have been allocated as far as possible to the trade and ordnance factories in the proportion of two-thirds and one-third. The practice has never been extended to stores, such as bayonets, and, in view of the small number of bayonets required, it is not possible, in the present instance, to place with the trade a larger number of bayonets than the 2,500 reserved for them.

Volunteer Regulations.

Mr. FREDERICK WILSON (Norfolk, Mid.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the new regulation fixing the age of forty-five as the limit of service for Volunteers will compel all men now in the force who have passed that age to resign; whether the new age regulation will apply to officers as well as privates; whether the regulation requiring men to be first-class shots as a condition of active service will apply to the Regular Army as well as Volunteers; and whether steps will be taken to provide rifle ranges throughout the country enabling Volunteers to have the practice necessary to attain accuracy in shooting.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) There is no such regulation as that referred to by the hon. Member. There is no intention of compelling Volunteers who have passed the age of forty-five to resign. There is no regulation requiring men of either the Regular Forces or the Volunteers to be first-class shots as a condition of active service, but, for reasons which I stated in reply to another Question yesterday,† the Army Council have thought it desirable to ascertain what proportion of the Volunteers qualified for foreign service are also first-class shots. The hon. Member is well aware how difficult it is to provide additional ranges, but the Army Council is fully alive to the desirability of increasing the number, and I hope that the progress which has marked the past few years will be continuous.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The Sinking of the "Afghanistan."

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been drawn to the disaster which occurred off Dungeness on the morning of June 3rd last, whereby the Liverpool sailing ship "Afghanistan" was sunk by H.M.S. "Cæsar," with the loss of nineteen lives; is it in contemplation to make any compensation to the relatives of the crew of the "Afghanistan" who perished in the disaster; and further, will instructions be issued to naval officers, with a view to the prevention of similar warlike tactics being carried out at the risk of the seafaring community.

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† See page 974.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The circumstances of this regrettable collision are at present under the consideration of the legal advisers of the Admiralty, and the position of the Admiralty in the matter cannot be defined until their advice has been received. The matter is being hastened, and the earliest communication possible will be made as to compensation. No evolutions were in progress at the time of the accident.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I should like to mention that these people are very poor, and if anything is to be done for them it ought to be done promptly.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): Did not a very thick fog prevail at the time of the accident, and was not the "Cæsar" running at a speed of thirteen knots to the danger of ships in general? Will the hon. Gentleman take steps to prevent war vessels running at such a speed in fog?

MR. PRETYMAN said the speed of the "Cæsar" was 11·2 knots at the time of the collision and the ships had only just run into the thick bank of fog which was the cause of the accident. There had not been sufficient time to slow down.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is not the speed during a fog limited to five knots by an order of the Admiralty?

MR. PRETYMAN: The speed in a fog is left to the discretion of the admiral commanding.

War Stores Inquiry—Deputy Judge Advocate-General.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether circumstances connected with sales and purchases of stores in South Africa, and the liability of officers to Court-martial, and other matters in relation thereto, were submitted in addition to Courts-martial proceedings to the Acting Deputy Judge Advocate-General for advice; and, if so, on how many occasions has he been recurred to for advice since his appointment in March, 1904, on such matters; and whether he has yet given an opinion on the Report of Sir William Butler's Committee.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The Deputy Judge Advocate-General has not given his advice in this connection.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Has he declined to give an answer?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir. He has given no opinion on the Report of, or evidence before, Sir William Butler's Committee.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: And meanwhile is this high judicial potentate practising as a stuff gownsman at the outside bar?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Volunteers.

*MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether general officers commanding-in-chief have been instructed to state their opinion as to the advisability of disbanding or amalgamating Volunteer units in their commands; and what steps he proposes to take in the event of his receiving recommendations to disband or amalgamate any such units.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part of the Question, it is impossible to say until the recommendations have been received and very carefully considered.

*MAJOR SEELY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the widespread concern caused by the issue of the War Office circular, upon which action is taken daily, he will put down the Volunteer Vote in Supply to give opportunity for early discussion.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I can give no pledge on the subject.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No action has been taken.

MAJOR SEELY: I am sure the right hon. Gentleman would not wish to mislead the House. In point of fact, action was taken on Monday, when the 22nd Middlesex was examined. Every corps whose numbers are reduced under this order will be in expectation of disbandment.

MR. C. R. SPENCER (Northamptonshire, Mid.): Will action be taken this year?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That will depend on the reports received. Commanding officers have been asked to report whether, in the interests of economy and efficiency, in their opinion there should be amalgamations of any corps. No reports have been received, and when received they will be carefully considered. It is obvious that from time to time the distribution of Volunteer corps must be considered.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): Will the right hon. Gentleman, in view of the statement made in another place, lay the circular referred to on the Table?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The circular referred to by Lord Donoughmore in the House of Lords is a very long one, and perhaps the hon. Gentleman will excuse me reading it. It shall be presented immediately.

*MR. McCRAE: Why was it communicated to the Press before being presented to Parliament?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It was sent in the ordinary way to commanding officers. I was not aware it had been communicated to the Press.

*MR. McCRAE: It appears in the Press and is somewhat contradictory of the Answer given by the right hon. Gentleman yesterday.

MAJOR SEELY asked leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, the circulation by the Secretary of State for War of a Memorandum addressed to general officers commanding-in-chief, directing them to report as to the advisability of disbanding or amalgamating certain units under their command, and the immediate disastrous and discouraging effect of such circular.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. and gallant Member has failed to notice that there is a blocking Motion on the Paper which covers the point he desires to raise. It stands in the name of the hon. Member for Bradford, "To call attention to the circular issued by the Secretary of State for War to officers commanding Volunteer battalions, and to the general condition of the Volunteer force."

MAJOR SEELY said the Volunteers were not specifically mentioned in his Motion, nor did he intend to mention them. He desired to call attention to the proposal of the Secretary of State to disband or amalgamate certain units.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Secretary of State for War stated a few minutes ago that there was no such intention on the part of the War Office; that the intention was to call for information from Volunteer officers before taking any action. In any case, I think the Motion would be covered by the words in the Resolution on the Paper, "The general condition of the Volunteer force."

MAJOR SEELY submitted that this was a matter of urgent public importance. It was not competent for the Secretary of State to say no order had been issued, because he was in possession of the terms of the order.

MR. C. R. SPENCER, as a Volunteer officer, appealed to the Prime Minister to use his influence with the hon. Member for Bradford to withdraw his blocking Motion, in view of the immense feeling aroused on the question.

*MR. McCRAE asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of what had taken place, he would reconsider his decision with regard to the Volunteer Vote in Supply.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Gentleman misunderstood my Answer. I gave no decision. What I pointed out to the House was that the number of Supply days remaining available are limited; and there are many subjects which hon. Gentlemen desire to discuss and which have more claim to discussion than the Volunteer Vote, which was largely discussed early in the session. Of course, if there is a general desire among those who have most right to speak to discuss the Volunteer Vote rather than some other subjects that would otherwise come up, and they are prepared not to press for these other subjects, I raise no objection.

Ordnance Maps for Volunteer Officers.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the officer commanding the 3rd Lancashire Royal Engineers (Volunteers), acting in accordance with the existing regulations, prepaid the sum of £2 17s. for maps, and sent in his requisition in proper form; whether he is aware that the maps were sent through the local agent at Southampton, together with a bill for £7 11s. 6d.; will he explain why the regulation authorising the issue of ordnance maps at reduced rates to officers has been cancelled at Southampton, and why no notification has been made in Army Orders that this privilege has been withdrawn; and whether, as the effect of an advance of 160 per cent. in the price of the necessary materials will be to discourage the study of military topography, he can see his way to allow maps to be purchased at the reduced rate in future.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: In September last a circular letter was issued to general officers commanding giving them authority to demand direct from the Director-General of the Ordnance Surveys maps required for instruction or other military purposes which would be issued free, and notifying them that the issue of maps on prepayment would be suspended from October 1st. I have no information as to the particular case referred to, but if officers require maps for military purposes and their general officer commanding approves, the maps are now issued free instead of at a reduced rate. The scale of issue is at present tentative, but when it is definitely approved it will be notified in Army Orders.

British Army in India.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the number of murders in connection with the Army in India during the past twelve months; and whether, in view of the rigidity of the discipline imposed upon the rank and file of the Army, any official inquiry will be made into the matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have had no report from India of a number of murders in connection with the Army during the past twelve months.

Horse Flesh as Food.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is now in a position to state the result of the inquiries which, in August last year, and in this year, he promised should be made concerning the number of old and slaughtered horses, or horses unfit for work, that are periodically exported from this country to Belgium, Holland, and Germany; and if he can say for what purpose their carcases are used; and whether their flesh is made into condiments of various kinds, returned to this country, and sold as articles of food.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): In the Netherlands horses imported for slaughter purposes must be slaughtered in public slaughterhouses at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, de Leyde, or Neineguen. It is guaranteed that only sound meat is offered for public consumption. Belgium —Large numbers of horses, chiefly those which have been used in coal mines, are imported from Grimsby, Goole, Hull and other ports on the East Coast of England to Antwerp. When intended for human consumption they must be slaughtered at the public slaughterhouse and sold by butchers who only deal in horse flesh. Horse flesh does not appear to be made into meat extract in Belgium, but sausages for local consumption are manufactured. No horse flesh, except a few living animals, is exported to the United Kingdom. Germany—No export of horse flesh to the United Kingdom takes place from Hamburg, nor, it is believed, from other German ports, such flesh having no sale there and being easily recognised, more especially as all horse flesh is indelibly stamped on inspection with the word "Pferd." The larger part of the horses imported from the United Kingdom appeared to have been, not for slaughter, but for riding and driving. About 130,000 horses a year are slaughtered in Germany, and as regards Hamburg, a certain number are consumed by human beings, some being used at the Zoological Garden and private menageries. The price varies from 2d. to 6d. per, lb. sausages from 4d. to 6d. per lb. The following are the statistics respecting the export of horses of small value in 1904—

Value under £5.

Belgium	2,475.
Holland	2,333.
Germany	38.
France	12.

Value over £5 and under £10.

Belgium	14,492.
Holland	3,898.
Germany	107.
France	28.

As regards France, reports from Dunkirk, Calais, Havre, and Cherbourg show that no horses unfit for further work are imported from the United Kingdom at any ports in those Consular districts.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): What quantity of these sausages find their way to the House of Commons?

[No Answer was returned.]

State Expenditure.

MR. McCRAE: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state the estimated net reduction in the aggregate liabilities of the State for the present financial year, after provision is made for naval and military loan expenditure.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I beg to refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave to a Question of the senior Member for Dundee on the 22nd of May[†], showing that the net diminution in the aggregate capital liabilities this year is estimated at rather more than £3,000,000. The hon. Member will, of course, understand that the additional liabilities to be created have special sinking funds providing for redemption in a very limited term of years, and are therefore of a very different character from the more permanent liabilities which are being paid off by the operation of the ordinary Sinking Funds.

MR. McCRAE: Do these figures take into account the expenditure under the Naval Works Bill this year?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir. I put the total expenditure out of capital at £9,000,000, towards which we had £850,000 over-borrowed last year. I have no reason to alter those figures.

The Bradford Committee's Report.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of his statement that Sir Edward Bradford's Committee of inquiry into the grievances of postal employees exceeded their terms of reference, he will send their Report back to the Committee, pointing out where they exceeded those terms, and asking them for an explanation or an amended Report.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I do not consider it desirable to adopt the course suggested by the hon. Member.

Threat to Assassinate a Manchester Member of Parliament.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the prosecution of a man charged with threatening to assassinate the hon. Member for South-West Manchester; whether he can ascertain if the offence arose in connection with an agrarian dispute; and whether he can state the total cost to the ratepayers of the extra police arrangements, if any, made at the scene of the dispute.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxlvi., 957.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): My attention has not been drawn to this prosecution. I notice that according to the newspapers the charge was to have been dealt with by the Sheffield magistrates to-day, but I have no further information. My Department is not concerned in the proceedings nor in the police arrangements.

Bearing Reins.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the suffering inflicted upon horses by the use of tight bearing reins, especially in hot weather, he will take such steps as may be necessary, by legislation or otherwise, to put a stop to this practice.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I fear that I cannot see my way to introduce legislation on this matter; but I agree with the hon. Member that the use of tight bearing reins does cause great discomfort to horses, and I hope that his Question will call attention to the practice and influence people to abandon it.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Have the police power to take action in cases of obvious cruelty?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I should like to look into that point.

Threat to Assassinate Scottish Members of Parliament.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether he can state if the letter received by the police with reference to a Member of this House representing a Scotch constituency threatened the assassination of three Members of this House; and whether he can state if the author of the letter has yet been made amenable to justice.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): I presume the hon. Member refers to the letter as to which he asked a Question on June 29th. If the Question is to be treated seriously I think the Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The police have not yet been able to trace the undesirable alien who wrote the letter.

MR. MACVEAGH: Does the right hon. Gentleman intend to follow the example of the Irish Government, and put up special barracks for the police told off to protect these Members of Parliament?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: Police barracks are not required.

MR. MACVEAGH: Is that decision not due to the fact that Scotchmen are too careful of their bawbees?

Strabane Petty Sessions Clerk.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the Secretary of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland was plaintiff in an action recently at Strabane Quarter Sessions, county Tyrone, in a civil bill against Mr. George Marks, clerk of petty sessions, for penalties for that the defendant had acted as solicitor in drawing a deed of arrangement; and whether, seeing that the defendant admitted the claim, he will say whether it is intended that this official shall be dismissed.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The petty sessions clerk holds his office during the joint pleasure of the justices of his district and the Lord-Lieutenant. He was sued under the 3rd Section of the Attorney and Solicitors (Ireland) Act, 1866, for a penalty for having done work as a solicitor, he not being a solicitor in fact. His action consisted in preparing and filling in a printed form of lease for a person, who paid him a fee. The clerk, who has twenty-three years good service, has explained that this was the first occasion on which he had done anything of the kind complained of, that he did it inadvertently, and promised never to do it again. He has paid a penalty of £11, with £2 13s. 0d. for costs and expenses, and has been severely reprimanded. The Lord-Lieutenant does not consider that his case calls for any further punishment.

Kerry Fishing Industry.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what assistance is being given to the fishing industry on the west coast of Kerry in the way of grants for boats and gear, training of fishermen, and establishing boatbuilding suitable to the district; and whether he will give the amounts expended under those heads in Kerry during each of the past five years.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The Board do not make free grants for the purposes mentioned, but during the past five years they have made loans to fishermen in county Kerry as follows: for boats and gear, £6,697; for providing barrel making materials, £2,802.

Reenard and Valentia Ferry and Piers.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any, and, if so, what steps will be taken to provide a steam ferry-boat between Reenard and Valentia and to improve the pier accommodation, in accordance with the proposals made by the right hon. Member for Dover when the Marine Works Act was under consideration.

MR. WALTER LONG: No specific undertaking was given by my predecessor to expend money at this place out of the Marine Works Act. The matter is now, however, engaging my careful consideration.

Model and National Schools in Ireland.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant the two Returns standing in the name of the hon. Member for South Kerry on to-day's Paper.

MR. WALTER LONG: I will have these Returns prepared and communicated to the hon. Member, but I do not consider them to be of sufficient importance to lay on the Table.

Appended are the Returns referred to:—

(1.) Mr. Boland. Model Schools (Ireland). Return giving (1) the number of model schools in Ireland recognised on the 31st day of December, 1904; (2) the cost of each pupil in average attendance in each model school for the year 1904; (3) the number of model schools in which there were no Catholic pupils on the rolls on the 31st day of December, 1904; (4) the number of pupil-teachers in office in the model schools on the 31st day of December, 1904, according to religious denominations; Return also to state how many of these pupil teachers had been appointed by competitive examination, and, if not by competitive examination, the reason to be stated in each case.

(2.) Mr. Boland. National Schools (Ireland). Return giving (1) the names and other particulars of the eighty or 100 national schools reported by the inspectors as unnecessary, to which reference is made on page 48 of Mr. Dale's Report; (2) date of recognition by the National Board of each of these unnecessary schools; (3) the total amount paid by the National Board for each of these unnecessary schools in the year 1904; (4) the average cost per pupil in average daily attendance at these schools; the Return also to show how many of these schools are under Catholic, Protestant, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Methodist management respectively, and the percentage of the religious denominations of all the pupils on the rolls of the national schools on the 31st day of December, 1904.

Horse Disease at Waterford.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Glamorganshire, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there is, or has recently been, an outbreak of South African horse disease both on the Kilkenny as well as the Waterford side of the city of Waterford; if so, can he state how it was introduced, and what steps are being taken to stamp the disease out; will the Government consider the advisability of not holding horse shows in that locality; and have the Agricultural

Department in Dublin circulated any leaflets or otherwise to farming societies so that tenant farmers may be made aware of the nature of the disease.

MR. WALTER LONG: The last case of disease occurred on the Kilkenny side of Waterford in May. The disease appears to have been introduced through the medium of Army horses. The steps taken to eradicate the disease include the destruction of affected horses, and occasionally of horses in contact; the isolation and supervision of horses exposed to infection, and the cleansing and disinfection of infected places. It is not at present considered necessary to prohibit the holding of horse shows in the localities concerned, but an Order containing precautionary regulations in the matter has been made. Information respecting the disease has been circulated to veterinary surgeons. I am considering the desirability of adopting my hon. friend's suggestion at the end of the Question.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): Has not the central authority received active co-operation from the local authorities in stamping out this disease? Is it not the case that of the compensation paid for animals slaughtered half is paid by the local authority and half by the Imperial authority? May I ask whether, under the exceptional circumstances, seeing that the disease was introduced by the artillery stationed at Waterford, the right hon. Gentleman will not see that the whole cost of the animals slaughtered is paid out of Imperial funds?

MR. WALTER LONG: I believe the Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. With regard to the second, it is part of the policy now under consideration. It is the invariable practice in these cases to charge the compensation partly against local and partly against other funds, and it would require strong reasons to justify a departure from it. I quite admit that in this case there are special circumstances, but the whole matter is now under consideration.

Police Protection to Mr. Owens at Kilbride.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Tullamore Division (King's County), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a man named Owens, holding an evicted farm on the Bomford Estate, Kilbride, near Tullamore, has purchased this farm through the Estates Commissioners; will he explain why, when the special police protection adjacent to his house was discontinued, six extra policemen were stationed in the town of Tullamore itself for the purpose of patrol duty; whether a charge for extra police duty will be levied; and, if so, whether it will be levied on the ratepayers of the district or the county.

MR. WALTER LONG: The reply to the first and concluding inquiries is in the negative. The protection afforded to Mr. Owens is considered necessary, and will be continued so long as the necessity exists.

Sale of Ether and Laudanum in Ireland.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the abuses arising from the unrestricted sale of ether in the county of Derry and to the inadequacy of the restrictions on the sale of laudanum in Ireland generally; whether he is aware that the want of more stringent regulations in regard to the sale of these drugs has been responsible recently for a murder in Derry county, and the cause of a suicide in the city of Belfast; and whether, in view of the facts, he will take steps to mitigate the possibility of further abuses in connection with the sale of these drugs.

MR. WALTER LONG: Both ether and laudanum are scheduled as poisons under the Act of 1870. There is some reason to believe that ether is improperly sold in certain districts, and the police will endeavour to bring offenders to justice, but I have no information that the provisions of the law as regards laudanum are evaded. The case in Derry is pending for trial, and I abstain from making any statement in respect to it; and in the Belfast case, the coroner's jury found that death was due to an accidental overdose of chloroform.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that ether is sold in half pint bottles at a lower price than whisky?

MR. WALTER LONG: I am not.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): Does ether do more harm than whisky?

MR. WALTER LONG: I have no information beyond that which the hon. Baronet is likely to possess.

Congestion in County Galway.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Congested Districts Board to relieve the state of congestion in the parish of Derry Brien, county Galway; and whether any of the lands purchased by the Board in the neighbourhood of Loughrea will be used for that purpose.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Board will make inquiry as to the land which may be available for the enlargement of holdings in this district.

Kinvara Harbour.

MR. DUFFY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the County Council of Galway passed a resolution quite recently urging upon the Government the necessity of carrying out certain improvements in the state of Kinvara Harbour; and, having regard to the many representations made to the Government by the county council, the District Council of Gort, and all the public bodies in the county, in favour of having these improvements carried out, he will state when it is proposed to commence the works.

MR. WALTER LONG: An agreement between the county council and the Congested Districts Board as to the future maintenance of these works was only executed a few days ago. The necessary proceedings under the Marine Works Act are now being taken, and in the meantime the Board of Works are taking preliminary measures to arrange for the commencement of the works.

Lord De Freyne's Ballyfinton Estate.

MR. DUFFY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Ballyfinton section of Lord De Freyne's property, situated near Loughrea, were prevented from completing the purchase of their land some time ago by the action of the Congested Districts Board in buying the property without consulting them; whether he is aware that they are now threatened with law proceedings unless the arrears are paid up, despite the fact that all the arrears then due were to have been extinguished according to the negotiations carried on between the tenants and Lord De Freyne; and whether he will recommend the Congested Districts Board to allow the tenants an equivalent reduction to that which they would be entitled to if the property had not been purchased by the Board.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Board have purchased the county Galway portion of this estate, and it is necessary that they should collect the rents in order to meet their engagements with the vendor. They will, however, lose no time in selling the holdings as soon as the estate has been legally vested in them. The terms of sale to the tenants will be considered in due course.

Crime in Galway.

MR. DUFFY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the address recently delivered by the County Court Judge of Galway, wherein His Honour commented on the comparatively crimeless state of the county, pointing out that the table of criminal statistics were below the average of many years back; and whether, in view of this declaration, he intends to have recourse to the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act to try a number of peasants at the forthcoming assizes by special juries.

Mr. WALTER LONG: There are seven divisions for criminal business in county Galway, of which the Galway division is one. I have seen a newspaper report of the County Court Judge's remarks when opening the Criminal Sessions for the Galway Division on June 26th. After commenting on the fact that the number of cases for trial—eleven—was greater than usual, he is stated to have said that all these cases were of the ordinary kind, and so far as he could see they showed that the state of society in the county was in its normal condition for such a large area. It is obvious that the Judge's remarks had reference to the Galway Division only, and not to those other divisions in which there has been most disturbance. As to the last inquiry, I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member for Galway, East, yesterday.†

Ballinloughane Fishermen.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the fishermen of Ballinloughane, Galway, who have been prevented from fishing by officers of the Galway Fishery, have hitherto been allowed to fish in waters now forbidden to them; whether such waters are outside the powers of the Galway Fishery; and whether, seeing that the action of the Ballinloughane fishermen in fishing where they did had the approval of Commandant Holmes, of the Naval Reserve Battery at Renmore, who examined their nets and found them in compliance with the regulations, he will issue instructions to have restored to the fishermen of Ballinloughane the rights of which they have been deprived.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I stated the facts, as known to the Department, in reply to the Hon. Member's Question of May 22nd.‡ The Department have no knowledge whether the fact is as stated in the concluding paragraph. I am informed that the conservators will, at their meeting on Saturday next, consider the question of prosecuting the fishermen referred to for breaches of the fishery laws.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN: In view of the severe distress among these people, is it the intention of the Government to get their rights restored to them so that they can earn their living?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I am afraid I cannot answer that without notice.

Sale of Imported Tobacco as Irish Roll.

Mr. FLYNN: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Tullamore Division of King's County, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the complaints made by prominent Irish tobacco manufacturers that a tobacco trust is largely importing into Ireland a tobacco falsely described and sold as Irish roll; and whether, seeing that the Irish tobacco industry, which directly and indirectly employs thousands of people, has already suffered injury by this competition, he would be prepared to advise His Majesty's Government to facilitate the passing of a short Bill prohibiting the sale in Ireland of tobacco described as Irish when it has not been manufactured in Ireland.

Mr. WALTER LONG: No complaint to the effect mentioned has been received by the Department, but if evidence is put before them that the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act are contravened, they will bring it to the notice of the proper authorities.

Mr. FLYNN: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire into the matter?

Mr. WALTER LONG: If any facts are sent to the Department they will be inquired into.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that quantities of roll tobacco, manufactured in England and Scotland, have been sold to the public as Irish roll tobacco, with the result that a branch of Irish trade is threatened; whether any prosecutions have taken place in consequence; and what steps he proposes to take to prevent the perpetuation of this fraud upon the public in future.

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† See page 989.

‡ See (4) *Debates* cxlvi, 980

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Board of Trade have no recent information on the subject, but they are prepared to consider with a view to prosecution any specific case of infringement of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, which is submitted under the regulations which govern prosecutions. It is, of course, open to the Irish manufacturers to take proceedings themselves if they are so advised.

Consular Reports--Irish Trade Statistics.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he is aware that in some of the Consular Reports, as, for example, Boston and Philadelphia, the trade statistics for Ireland are set out separately, but that in the majority of the Reports Ireland is treated as part of the United Kingdom or is merged in the designation of England; and whether, with a view to securing the necessary information for Irish trade, instructions will be given to all the Consuls to set out in all future Reports separate statistics showing the trade between Ireland and the countries or special districts for which they are Consuls.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The facts are as stated in the Question. Consuls are dependent in preparing their Reports on the statistics accessible in their various districts. In most Consular districts it is not possible to obtain statistics of trade with the various parts of the United Kingdom separately, so that a general instruction of the nature suggested would not serve a useful purpose. The hon. Member will, however, find some details that may interest him of the imports into the United States as a whole from Irish ports in the December number of the Monthly Summary of Commerce of the United States, which he can consult at the Board of Trade. I understand that the Foreign Office have no objection to including any available figures on this subject in future Reports of the British Commercial Agent on the trade of the United States.

North of Ireland Mails.

Mr. McFADDEN (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the Corporation of Londonderry, the Chamber of Commerce of Londonderry, the Urban District Councils of Strabane, Omagh, Dungannon, Portadown, Lurgan, and Lisburn, and the county councils of the counties in which these towns are situate, have passed resolutions in favour of a subsidiary mail to English towns by the 5.15 p.m. train from Londonderry *via* Greenore, on the ground of the importance to these industrial centres and the merchants there in dealing with their English correspondence; and on what grounds is the refusal to grant a mail service from these places by the 5.15 p.m. Greenore train based.

Lord STANLEY: I have received a number of memorials from local authorities in the North of Ireland in favour of the establishment of a mail to England by the Greenore route. As the hon. Member is aware, a considerable improvement in the service to England by the Larne and Stranraer route has just been carried out, and I am endeavouring to extend the benefits of this service as far as possible to towns on the Great Northern Railway between Londonderry and Belfast. I am also considering the question of giving these places a despatch to English towns by the Fleetwood route. Both the Larne and the Fleetwood routes afford a better connection with English towns generally than would be given by a service *via* Greenore; and when the arrangements referred to have been carried out, it will probably be found that very little, if any, advantage would be gained by the establishment of a despatch *via* Greenore.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): What would be the cost of the supplementary mail *via* Greenore?

Lord STANLEY: I cannot say.

Mr. SLOAN: Will the noble Lord inquire?

Lord STANLEY: Certainly

Derry Telephone Service.

Mr. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the fact that the National Telephone Company have expressed their willingness to connect their subscribers at Derry with the trunk line, if the necessary permission is given, and seeing that the trunk line between Belfast and Derry is now completed, he will consider the advisability of meeting the public convenience by permitting the connection to be made forthwith.

Lord STANLEY: I do not think that the working of the trunk line in connection with the single-wire system of the National Telephone Company in Londonderry would afford a satisfactory service, and it would not, therefore, be desirable to place the line at the disposal of the company's subscribers until metallic circuits have been provided. This work will, I am informed by the company, proceed without delay. In the meantime communication with the trunk system can be obtained at the call office which has been opened at the Post Office.

Mr. SLOAN: And will the subscribers of the National Telephone Company have the use of it?

Lord STANLEY: Certainly.

Sunday Observance.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he intends to take any, and, if so, what, steps to give effect to the recommendations of the Sabbath Observance Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not propose to offer any legislation on this subject this year.

Mr. MACVEAGH asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would not give effect to the representations of the Sabbath Observance Committee that the Prime Minister should be asked to cease Sunday golfing, which was creating a public scandal.

[No Answer was returned.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) rose to move—"That the proceedings on the Motion relating to Aliens Bill (Procedure), if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this evening, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House), and may be resumed at any hour though opposed."

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said before the Resolution was moved he desired to ask whether the words "and may be resumed at any hour though opposed" did not take the Motion out of the category of Motions which came under Standing Order I., and could be decided without Amendment or debate. He submitted that the addition of these words left the Motion open to Amendment and debate. A similar question was raised in regard to the same words in March, 1903. On that occasion Mr. Speaker Gully informed him that in his opinion these words would take the matter out of the Standing Order, the discussion on the Motion was allowed to continue, and three speakers took part in it.

*Mr. SPEAKER: If the matter had come before me as *res integra*, I should have had no hesitation in ruling that the Motion of the Prime Minister could have been taken under Standing Order I., because the words are—

> "A Motion made by a Minister of the Crown shall be decided without Amendment or debate to the following effect:—'That the proceedings on any specified business if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House).'"

That is obviously a form of words which cannot be used in any particular case. The words "on any specified business" must admit of alteration; otherwise they would be nonsense. They cannot be moved in that form. Therefore, if this matter had been brought before the House for the first time to-day, I should have had no hesitation in ruling that this Motion would have come within Standing Order I. But my attention has been called by the hon. Member to what occurred in March, 1903, and the hon. Member has informed the House that he obtained the ruling of the Speaker on the matter. That being so, I am bound by what has occurred, and, in that case, if the Motion is made in the form in which it now stands on the Paper, a debate will be allowed.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Then, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to put the Resolution without the words to which my hon. friend has taken objection. [Opposition cries of "No."]

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked whether it would be in order for the right hon. Gentleman to move a Motion on this subject of which he had not given notice.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman has given notice.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman now proposed to move a Motion in terms different from those on the Paper.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: May I ask you, Sir, whether, although it is usual to give notice with that courtesy to which I imagine every Leader of this House will desire to conform, it is any part of the rules of the House, and whether my Motion would not be perfectly valid even if I had not given notice?

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): It has become, not perhaps a rule, but a custom of the House and ought not to be departed from.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is entitled to move his Motion down to and including the word "House." He would not be entitled to extend the Motion in any way. If he diminishes it, no exception can be taken.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR then moved the Motion as amended.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the Motion relating to Aliens Bill (Procedure), if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this evening, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—*(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)*

The House divided:—Ayes, 233; Noes 159. (Division List No. 241.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hn. George
Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHnHugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B (Hornsey
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.
Brymer, William Ernest
Campbell, Rt. Hn. JA(Glasgow
Campbell, JHM(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Chas. William
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.JA(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A.Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hn. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T George
Fellowes, Rt Hn Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssBghs
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J.E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW(BurySEdmunds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray

Hain, Edwaod
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Heath,Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas (Staffords.N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, SirA. (Stafford, W.
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hope, J F (Sheffield,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo.T. (Denbigh)
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn. H.L.W.(Mile End
Lee, Arthur H (Hants,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N S
Llewelyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Maxwell,Rt Hn Sir H E(Wigt'n
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hn. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt Hn Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H(Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, H C (North'mbTyneside
Smith,Rt Hn JParker (Lanarks
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt. Hn J B (Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col Sir CEH (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H
Welby, Lt.-Col A.C.E.(Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. GE(Notts.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H.(Yorks
Wodehouse, Rt Hn E.R.(Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw'sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, RtHn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick

Hayter, Rt.Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, C. E H (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Chas. Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day,
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj J E B (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt.HnCR(Northants)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wilson, Henry J (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N.
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

ALIENS BILL (PROCEDURE).

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): The justification of the Motion I am about to submit to the judgment of the House lies partly in the general condition of business during the session [Opposition Cheers] partly on the character of the Bill, and partly on the progress which the Bill has made. Hon. Gentlemen opposite, judging by their cheers, seem very much interested in the question of the business of the session, and they are quite right. It is of the greatest importance in forming an estimate of such procedure as that which I now advise the House to adopt, and it gives food for thought for those who, like myself and many others on both sides of the House, are preoccupied about the conditions that are inevitably incident, as I think, to the changes which are coming over an Assembly as large as ours which insists upon, and has a traditional right to insist upon, not merely criticising the action of the Administration, but dealing in detail with every Bill, or the great majority of Bills which are brought before it. The House this session has sat on seventy-three days on which Government business has been the first order. Of course, on a great many of those days the Government has not had control of the whole day, because we have scrupulously respected the rights of private Members before Easter and before Whitsuntide, giving to private Members the evening sitting on two nights of the week in the earlier portion, and one night of the week in the second portion. Whether that be too much or too little I will not argue; I only mention the fact to show that the mere circumstance of Government business standing as the first order does not carry with it the conclusion that the Government has control over the whole time of the day, and therefore the facts I am about to submit to the House gain greater significance.

Let me tell the House how the seventy-three days on which Government business has been the first order have been used by the House. Roughly adopting a division of our labours, which, I think, is the rational division, into business which is necessary for carrying on the business of the country which, although legislative in form, is to be carefully distinguished from legislation in the ordinary and accepted sense of the word, and legislation as it appears for example, in the list of Bills mentioned in the King's Speech—asking the House to keep that broad distinction in view, I will remind them that twelve days were occupied by the Address, twenty-seven have been occupied by Supply ["Oh"]—my hon. friend surely remembers the Supply taken before Easter dealing with Supplementary Estimates, which do not count among the allotted days. There were two days occupied in bringing Supply to an end before Easter, the Consolidated Fund Bill took two days, the Motion for the holidays two days, and two days were occupied in votes of censure. That is forty-eight days under heads which may be roughly described as Supply, and as aiding hon. Gentlemen in finding opportunities for criticism. The annual business, which includes the Budget, the Finance Bill, and the Indian Budget, occupied thirteen days, the election of Speaker one day, and legislation proper eleven days. If hon. Gentlemen will add those figures together they will find they make up seventy-three days. So that we have had eleven days for legislation as against twenty-seven for Supply and twelve for the Address. Leaving out of account Motions for adjournment, votes of censure amount to about one-fifth of the time allotted to legislation. ["How?"]—well, two days is about a fifth of eleven, while the amount of time given to Supply is much more than twice the number of days we have had for legislation, and the time given to the King's Speech exceeds it by a day. That takes place under the rules of the House, and I am perfectly ready to admit that criticism of the Government, of the Administration of the day, is one of the first duties of the House, it certainly is the first duty of the Opposition. But I think it will be admitted, if we compare the opportunities for that criticism which have been given in the present session with the amount allotted to the Government for purposes of legislation, that this proportion seems almost excessive.

So much for the past; now let me turn to the future and remind the House how we stand in regard to the available time before the session comes to its ordinary and natural course between the 10th and the 14th or 15th of August.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Why not say the 12th, "Grouse" day?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know whether the hon. Member for Donegal is capable of understanding my argument.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I am capable of understanding you.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is not what the hon. Member is asked to understand. At the present moment he is asked to understand my argument.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: A distinction without a difference.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Member will listen to me with the ordinary courtesy which the vast majority of hon. Members opposite are quite ready to extend to me, I am quite sure it will conduce to the convenience of the House on both sides. Taking the ordinary day on which we have terminated the session for many years, and I hope it is desirable to terminate it at such a day—up to Friday, August 11th, of this year there are twenty-seven working days from the present moment; in this period eight days have to be given to Supply under the Standing Orders, exclusive of three days which may or may not be given, and two days must be given for the Appropriation Bill, which leaves seventeen days only for finishing the legislative work which we have got in hand, or as much of it as it is possible to do within a reasonable time. There may be many degrees of hope with regard to the Bills which are on the Paper, and which we desire to see passed, but what we absolutely must do is to conclude the Bill which is the subject-matter of the present Motion, the discussion upon redistribution, and the Scottish Ecclesiastical Bill. I think there are other Bills that ought to be passed; there are other Bills that I hope may be passed; but I think it will be admitted that if the measure of progress which we have had on the Aliens Bill is to be that adopted in regard to other measures, our prospects of dealing with these further Bills becomes shadowy indeed. It would be a deplorable thing, I think, if nothing were done in regard to some of those measures, and yet if the House is going to insist upon its right of discussing the Aliens Bill and other Bills at the length at which they have discussed the Aliens Bill already, is it possible that we should make serious progress with these other measures before the date at which I think the session ought to terminate?

There are Gentlemen I know—I think the hon. Member for South Donegal is one of them—who hold the view that if there is a difficulty in passing Bills before the end of the second week in August, the remedy is to sit till the third or fourth week. I would remind hon. Members, in the first place, that that is not the view of the Leader of the Opposition, who urged me to make as much speed as I could with the Resolutions dealing with redistribution, because as he truly said, the period at which this House was thoroughly effective as a consultative and legislative body was running out. I entirely agree with the view that to ask the House to do very important business very late in August is really to misuse this Assembly, and to turn it to purposes which it is incapable of fulfilling. Under these circumstances, it is not merely love of grouse-shooting, love of idleness, or love of anything else which is either innocent or pernicious, but simply on the broad ground that this House, which already works, I believe, longer hours and more days than any legislative Assembly in the world, cannot be made an effective machine for executing the purposes for which it exists if we insist upon straining it, year after year, to a point which it is beyond its strength to bear.

If I have carried the House so far with me, surely I may ask them to go with me one step further. The Bill which I am asking them to put a time limit to is a Bill which is not, in its essence, a controversial Bill. ["Oh!"] I do not think it can be controversial in its essence, because, if my memory serves me aright, there was no division against the Second Reading proper ["Yes"]; the division on the Amendment, which I am quite willing to regard as a division on the Second Reading, showed that those who were prepared to wreck the Bill on Second Reading were but a small fraction of the House. I think the minority was between fifty and sixty, and the majority exceeded it very largely. If, then, we must make speed with our work, can there be a more proper subject for it than a Bill which, in its broad outlines, has this uncontroversial aspect? Otherwise, if we are to have the same progress in the future, all that remains of the seventeen days—which cannot be wholly given to such business, as there are Bills which must be passed, such as the Naval Works Bill, and Lords Amendments, and other matters which I have not enumerated—would be occupied by this Bill alone.

I do not accuse hon. Gentlemen of obstruction; it would be quite unnecessary for my argument; I do not suppose that their speeches have been out of order, or they would have been called to order by the Chairman, and I do not at all accuse them of having desired to waste the time of the Committee. If, in this critical and pressing matter of the business of the House, we had only to deal with malefactors, with men who deliberately set themselves to wreck the House of Commons as a legislative machine, the question would probably be much easier than it is; but the problem we have got to face now and hereafter for many years to come is, not the malefactor, but the Gentleman who, in making a speech, not only has the satisfaction of expressing his own sentiments at considerable length, but the additional joy of embarrassing the Government. That is a perfectly innocent frame of mind, a frame of mind in which I have been myself, in which I may perhaps find myself again, and of which I do not make any complaint in itself. But I would point out to the House that, unless we can allocate the business of an ordinary session, so that the Government of the day can get, not an excessive nor an extravagant amount, but a reasonable amount of legislation—until we can do that we shall not have got the rules of this House into a satisfactory condition. I believe that if a stranger acquainted with the details of the Aliens Bill and the questions which it raises had been brought into the gallery for odd quarters of an hour during our debates, and not told what exactly was the subject of discussion, he could not from the speeches have divined what was the Amendment before the Committee, and, indeed, whether it was an Amendment at all and not the Second Reading of the Bill.

[AN HON. MEMBER on the OPPOSITION Benches: How do you know? You were not here.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Supposing I had been here only for the odd quarters of an hour of which I speak, I should be only the better judge of the stranger's state of mind and of the proposal I have submitted. What I have said does not in the least imply that the hon. Members who were thus giving vent to their opinions were out of order. Each Amendment to the Bill has some relevancy to the Bill as a whole; and it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for any Chairman of Committees to draw a precise line and say which remarks are relevant to the Amendment alone and which are relevant to the other parts of the Bill with which the particular Amendment is necessarily connected. I myself hold the view that such Resolutions as that which I am now proposing, and which have been proposed by me on previous occasions and by my predecessors, are an inevitable part of the present machinery of Parliament, and that their adoption will be found necessary by my successors as they were found necessary by my predecessors. These Resolutions are only tolerable when regarded as a transition stage to something better, and it will be the duty of those who in the future are responsible for the business of this House to see whether that development cannot be made on reasonable and rational lines.

It is absurd to say that the House of Commons ought to deal with legislation and the other matters which are brought before it in a non-Party spirit. After all, we are organised into Parties. Party feeling is the very breath of our nostrils, and though it may be and has, I am glad to think, been put aside on occasions—often with regard to foreign affairs and administrative affairs, and sometimes even in regard to legislation—you clearly cannot trust to matters in this House being always dealt with in a non-Party spirit. If the Opposition of the day see their way to getting an advantage by a little more eloquence, that little more eloquence will certainly be forthcoming. If that has been found the invariable rule in the past, it will be found the invariable rule in the future also, and what has to be devised is not something that will treat us as angels, because we are not angels, or as people who will never take a Party advantage to embarrass the Government of the day, because we will take and always have taken a Party advantage to embarrass the Government of the day, but some plan by which the debating, the critical, and, indeed, the destructive powers of Members are diverted from things that are unimportant to things that are essential.

If some mechanism could be devised by which those parts of a Bill which do not touch its essence could be dealt with upstairs in a non-Party spirit, we should have gone a long way to solve the problem. But I am sorry to say that such information as has reached me about the working of Grand Committees upstairs shows that the Party spirit has penetrated even into those regions. I am not passing any criticism upon either side of the House. I am dealing only with the bare facts of the situation. Party spirit has penetrated even to the Grand Committees, and the evils under which we have long suffered in this House, and which, as I have said, are inseparable from the debates of this House, have reached regions to which the authors of the Grand Committees fondly hoped they would never penetrate. Whether that can be put right or not I do not know. But I am quite certain, and I speak with earnest conviction upon a subject to which I have given a great deal of thought, that the problem of the future, so far as this House is concerned, will be to reconcile these apparently irreconcilable facts—that the session should not last an abnormal period, that sufficient time should be given to the criticism of the Government, and that reasonable time should be given, not merely to pass an uncontroversial Budget, like the Budget of this session, and the legislation required to carry on the administrative business of the country, but to deal with those legislative questions which the country desires to see submitted to Parliament.

How that end is to be attained by a method less clumsy and, as I think, less pernicious to free discussion than the expedient which I ask, I regret to say not for the first time, the House to adopt I do not pretend to know. But in this proposition I beg the House to agree with me, because I am sure it is a reasonable one. I ask them to agree that, so far as this session is concerned, we neither have asked the House to adopt an unreasonable amount of controversial legislation nor have had an excessive amount of time in which to pass it. The eleven days we have had so far and the seventeen days, with many deductions, which still remain to us must be admitted to be an insufficient quantity of time even to deal with the moderate programme of business which we have laid before the House. These are the particular reasons for which I ask the House to accept this Resolution. If I have for a brief time wandered into general propositions, I think the House will forgive me; because, whether they agree or not with the particular Motion which I am proposing, they will admit that this question goes far beyond Party in these two respects: first, that it deals with the House of Commons as a whole, and, secondly, that it deals with both Parties alike, since each Party will in its turn have to occupy the positions of critics and legislators; and the more the House can address itself in a non-Party spirit to the solution of the most difficult problem which I have laid before it, the better it will be for an ultimate solution upon lines that will allow the fullest and freest discussion of any new projects of legislation which the Government of the day may lay before it. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the proceedings in Committee and on Report of the Aliens Bill, including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto, shall, unless previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion at the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned:—

(*a*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining part of Clause 1, and Clauses 2 and 3, and on the Committee stage of the financial Resolution, shall be brought to a conclusion on Monday the 10th of July;

(*b*) The proceedings on the Report stage of the financial Resolution, and in Committee on Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Afternoon Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July;

(*c*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining Clauses of the Bill, on any new Clauses or Schedules, and any other proceedings necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Evening Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July;

(*d*) The consideration of the Report of the Bill shall be appointed for Monday the 17th of July, and shall be brought to a conclusion on that day;

(*e*) At 11 p.m. on Monday the 10th of July, and at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 12 midnight on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 11 p.m. on Monday the 17th of July, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question or any

Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the business allotted to the day or sitting.

(*f*) In the case of Government Amendments, or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be.

The Third Reading of the Bill shall be put down for the Evening Sitting on Wednesday the 19th of July, and at 12 midnight on that day the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill.

The proceedings to which this Order relates shall not be interrupted except at the Afternoon Sitting at 7.30 p.m. on the 11th and 17th of July, under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

After the passing of this Order, on any day or at any Sitting to which Business is allotted under this Order, no dilatory Motion on the Bill or Resolution, and no Motion to postpone a Clause of the Bill, shall be received unless moved by a Minister in charge of the Bill, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith.

No Motion under Standing Order 10 shall be received on the 10th, 11th, 17th, or 19th July, and no opposed Private Business shall be set down at the Evening Sitting for consideration on those days.

If Progress be reported, the Chairman shall put this Order in force in any subsequent sitting of the Committee."—(*Mr. A. J.Balfour.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Whatever may be the view which we take of the Motion which the right hon. Gentleman has just made to the House, there is one thing upon which we are all sure to agree, and that is in recognising the excellent tone and spirit in which he has introduced it. The Leader of the House was amiable; he was plausible; he was convincing, no doubt, to those who are already convinced, and he was not irritating to those who are difficult to be convinced. Further than that, towards the end of his speech he lifted the subject to a higher plane than that to which we are accustomed on these occasions, because he opened up what is undoubtedly a great and difficult constitutional question—namely, the question of how the business which the House of Commons undertakes to do can be got through in the time at its disposal.

I cannot help casting my mind back to an analogous occasion. Last year this summary process was applied by the Government to the Licensing Bill, and it was met by us in a determined and almost angry spirit. My right hon. friend the Member for East Fife moved what we called a reasoned Motion in opposition. I rather think we debated it for more than one day. [AN HON. MEMBER: Three days.] Let us say for parts of three days; but that was because we had before us a Bill which we considered of a revolutionary character, and highly injurious to the best interests of the country, and which contained a large number of detailed provisions of the first importance which we thought ought to be fully discussed and considered by the House before any such Bill passed into law. On this occasion the procedure is to be applied to a third-class measure which, by dint of advertisement and other manœuvres, has managed to get itself elevated into the first position, and has become, in fact, almost the sole contents of the legislative programme of the Government for the year. How do we look upon that measure? It contains one or two principles which we think dangerous and unsound in the highest degree; but we say also that it is absolutely unworkable—that, as it cannot do the good it professes to aim at, neither can it be made probably to do the mischief we believe it might do. We have the authority of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer and former Home Secretary, the Member for Croydon, who told us that he tried one scheme after another, and rejected them all as perfectly unworkable. Now, that eases our minds. It gets rid of a great deal of friction, and makes us willing, although we make our protest, not to carry that protest too far; because we know that, except by some unforeseen accident, the Bill will not come into actual operation. That is the reason why this proposal applied, as I say, to this third-rate Bill does not excite anything like the same opposition or feeling of irritation as attended the previous case in which this process was adopted.

But the right hon. Gentleman, in order to commend his Motion to the House, very naturally cast his eyes back on the session, and forward to the remainder of the session. With regard to the past he read out some figures showing the days devoted to this and to that. Again I thank him for relief to my mind. I was under the impression that my friends and I had been great malefactors this session. I have received numberless rebukes of an anonymous character protesting against my action in wasting the valuable time of the House on idle votes of censure, and I remember the hon. Member for Essex, who always tries to be facetious, put a Question to the Prime Minister suggesting that Monday in each week should be devoted to the usual vote of censure. The right hon. Gentleman did not give an unfavourable reply, though he did not adopt the suggestion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say anything.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: At all events, it appeared to the right hon. Gentleman not an unnatural suggestion to make. But there have been only two votes of censure in the course of the whole session. My memory is not very exact, but I can only call to mind two, so the right hon. Gentleman cannot blame us for occupying the time of the House. No, Sir, the truth is that the Government and their Party raised not very long ago a great question in this country, which has excited and occupied the public mind almost to the exclusion of everything else, and that has killed and destroyed interest in most other things for the moment; and the Government having lasted, as the country thinks, quite long enough, and the country having shown, as they have shown in the unbroken series of elections, that they think that this *regime* had better be brought to an end, these circumstances have had a great effect on the driving force of the House of Commons. In such conditions I frankly say I do not recognise the right of right hon. Gentlemen to sit where they do; but whether we go that length or not, at all events they are by universal consent so weakened and deprived of their original vivacity and power that they are unable to carry great measures. Therefore we have this third-rate Bill, only asked for in one or two parishes in the country. [AN HON. MEMBER: How about Poplar?] My hon. friend the Member for Poplar is quite able to answer for himself; but, that being the state of things, it really accounts for the situation.

But the right hon. Gentleman kept saying, "We have only been allowed so many days for this or that." Who allowed? He is the master of the House. He has the many legions and he has the disposal of the time for the business of the House; and if it is said that he, after all, is subject to the rules and practice of the House and that deprives him of the power to do what he would like, he is the author of the rules of the House, and therefore if there has been any lack of opportunity for getting on with business it is he who entirely recast, and, I think, mischievously recast, the rules of the House; and, therefore, I am afraid I must depart so far from the entirely amiable attitude I wish to assume and remind the right hon. Gentleman that he cannot get rid of a large share of the blame for the state of things which now exists.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I distinctly stated that I did not anticipate that the rules would deal with the particular difficulty before us.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, but I do say they have a decided tendency to hinder the progress of Bills, and I pointed out when the rules were introduced that the granting of an extended dinner hour, with its consequent difficulty of reassembling, would not conduce to the progress of business. And I remember that I reminded the right hon. Gentleman in the old days, when we were accustomed to what were then called morning sittings and had an interruption of that sort, that the moment a Government — whatever Government it might be—got possession of the full time of the House we should hear no more of morning sittings, because they knew they were fatal to the rapid progress of business. So much for the past. I do not think the right hon. Gentleman is entitled to speak of having been allowed this or that, seeing that he is the great allower and disposer of the time for business.

Then the right hon. Gentleman turns to look ahead. There is not a very large prospect of opportunity for new legislation; but even with all the terrors of August 1st before us and the necessity of having to pay due homage to that date, the right hon. Gentleman proposes, with so many Bills half digested, with so many arrears of business, the House not long having entered upon the Committee stage of probably the one great measure of the year—the right hon. Gentleman calmly suggests that the House should be invited to enter on the question of Parliamentary reform as a nice little pastime. The lamentations of the right hon. Gentleman over the past of the session and his statement of the dreadful state in which business now stands are a condemnation of his proposal to enter on a totally new subject for which I am not aware that any one except the hon. Member for Wandsworth has asked, and, I will add, a subject which, if dealt with, as I have no doubt the right hon. Gentleman would seek to deal with it, honestly and fairly, is not, I think, very likely to secure any great electoral advantage to the Party with which he is connected. That makes it the more extraordinary that the right hon. Gentleman, having nothing to gain by it, should deliberately wish that the House should enter on this great question of Parliamentary reform; because once you begin to alter boundaries and to absorb little boroughs, and to put the whole thing in the melting-pot, you must go on to the other and not very easy question of the franchise. The first stage of that is to be taken under the auspices of a weakened and discredited Government—discredited by the general opinion of the electors—in a fagged-out and wearied-out House, at the very end of the session, in which we have not been able to do one-fifth of the work we ought to have done, according to the right hon. Gentleman. I hope, really, after the statement he has made, we shall hear no more of the redistribution proposals.

Of course, we are opposed to this mode of dealing with great Bills. But I admit for one the cruel necessity which rests upon the right hon. Gentleman in all these cases of finding some remedy. I agree with him that it will not be very easy to apply, that it must be found and must be applied, and I do not doubt that it must take the form of devolution of some kind. Devolution in some form or other, be it small or large, tentative or comprehensive, we must come to, because the House of Commons is no longer able to undertake—there I agree with the right hon. Gentleman—the discharge of the duties that are necessarily incumbent upon it. In the meantime, we have this proposal. A good many of my hon. friends will no doubt have objections of detail to make, and also general objections of principle. I share their objections, and I shall vote against this mode of dealing with the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman will at least, I hope, guard us in one particular. Again and again, I think last year, on the Licensing Bill, there were cases in which certain matters were postponed in order that new words should be brought up to meet the wishes of the House. That is often necessary in order to stave off an awkward discussion or bring a too prolonged discussion to an end. Any Amendment of that sort to any part of the Bill which has been dealt with in that way, I think, ought to be preserved from the summary process to which the right hon. Gentleman proposes to subject the Bill. I think I have sufficiently indicated my own views on the subject, and I trust I have done so in such a way as to be, though perhaps pointed in my observations, not in any way offensive to the right hon. Gentleman, who has shown a disposition to-day —whether of pure good nature or whether with a view to overcoming the opposition of the House I cannot say—to treat the matter in not only a candid, but a genial, spirit.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that he had been present on many occasions similar to the present when extraordinary facilities were asked for by the Government in order to enable them to force through certain legislation; but he had never been present on any occasion when the proposal of the Government was invested with so much gravity and importance as that of to-day. It seemed to him that after the speech of the Prime Minister the particular merits or demerits of the Aliens Bill, or of its passing or not passing, disappeared from view altogether. On previous occasions Motions of this character were justified by peculiar circumstances, arising owing to the mismanagement of business or bad luck on the part of the Government or alleged obstruction on the part of the Opposition. But the Motions were always put forward as exceptional. The plain meaning of this was that in future, such was the condition of this Assembly, no Government could ever be expected to pass any legislation, large or small, by the ordinary rules of the House, and that no measure of importance could be carried for the people of this country except by expedients such as this, curtailing and destroying the right of discussion in the House. He was almost entirely in agreement on this point with the Prime Minister. He had, over and over again, said to the House of Commons that in his judgment as time went on it would become more and more impossible for this Assembly to fulfil its duties to all the manifold interests committed to its care. At the present moment, on the confession of the Prime Minister, the legislative machine had broken down. This was not an exceptional session. In all his experience of this Assembly, an experience extending over a quarter of a century, he never remembered a session having such a meagre programme of important legislation, and he never remembered a session in which the Government exercised the extraordinary powers at their disposal to curtail discussion by private Members in so arbitrary a fashion. There was nothing in this session except that it was an easier session for the Government to get through their programme than they had had for many years past.

What had been the experience of the session? Seventy-three days had been devoted to Government business of which only eleven had been devoted to legislation, and at the end of the eleven days the Prime Minister came down and said if this Bill, which the Leader of the Opposition had described as a third-rate Bill, was to be passed into law in a reasonable time it must be promptly dealt with. That only meant that the House of Commons, for some reason or other, was unable to perform its work. He was glad to hear the admission of the Prime Minister that it was not due to obstruction. The case of the right hon. Gentleman to-day was that this Bill must be passed by closure by compartments and without any discussion on some of its most important provisions, not because there had been any obstruction but because the legislative machine had broken down. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman in what he said as to the length of the session. He went further. In his judgment this House ought never to sit longer than July 1st, but when the right hon. Gentleman spoke of new rules he could only say he thought that a rearrangement of the financial business of the country which would enable the House to rise on July 1st would be more useful and more conducive to the rapid fulfilment of the right hon. Gentleman's duties. In comparison with other legislative Assemblies of the world this House sat more days and more hours.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Not more days. They sit from October to Christmas.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he would not persist in that statement in the face of what the right hon. Baronet, whose experience was very wide, had said, but his own experience had not been small and certainly he knew most of the Assemblies in America and Canada, and so far as they were concerned this Assembly sat a great deal longer and then was not able to do its work.

What was the reason? The right hon. Gentleman had rightly said this was not due to what he had called the malefactors; it was not due to the action of men who came here with the deliberate intention to wreck the Assembly. It was due to the fact that conditions had changed; it was due to the growth of Empire; to the growth of education; and of population and other causes which could not be checked and which would grow more and more as time progressed. It came to this, that this Assembly was attempting to perform an absolutely impossible task. There was work enough for this House for six months every year if its attention were confined entirely to the affairs of England; if its attention were confined entirely to the affairs of Scotland; or if its attention were confined entirely to the affairs of Ireland or of Wales. There was ample work for this House for six months every year if its attention were confined entirely to Imperial matters. Yet this Assembly attempted in six months to perform all these duties. That that was a physical impossibility was daily becoming more apparent, and he welcomed this debate and the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in which he admitted that the legislative machine had broken down and was unable to fulfil all the duties that were thrown upon it.

As to the remedy the right hon. Gentleman was not very specific. He only pointed out what would be desirable in the future. When they were asked to devote days and weeks to the discussion of the right hon. Gentleman's own new rules it was with the object, he had understood, of providing a remedy for this breaking down of the legislative machine, but according to the right hon. Gentleman's statement to-day he never expected it to do anything of the kind. That being so he must confess he did not know what the new rules were for. The right hon. Gentleman had truthfully said the Grand Committees had broken down; that the Party spirit had found its way into the Grand Committees. But who was it who first broke the rule and sent to the Grand Committeess controversial measures instead of non-controversial measures with which, and which only, it was the business of Grand Committees to deal? That was a question which he would leave to the right hon. Gentleman himself to answer. It was sufficient to point out that the Grand Committees had broken down through the introduction into them of the Party spirit. There was a small Irish Bill before one of those Committees at the present time which passed its Second Reading by a large majority, a small Bill which, if it had been under the consideration of a Committee of the whole House, would have been passed in two days. It had occupied the Grand Committee weeks and months, simply because three or four Gentlemen, including some members of the right hon. Gentleman's Administration, the two law officers for Ireland and one law officer for England, had attended day by day to obstruct its progress. The system of the Grand Committee formed no remedy.

What had been done by the right hon. Gentleman? No doubt he had an idea running through his head that this matter might be dealt with in the near future, and his mind was running on some more new rules. Every new rule passed in the House for a century past had failed. He would suggest a remedy to the right hon. Gentleman. Let the right hon. Gentleman disfranchise Ireland. It had been said in the papers that the right hon. Gentleman was going to trifle with this question; that he was going to attempt to reduce the Irish representation by a few votes. It was not worth while to tear up the Treaty of Union for the sake of a few votes. Let the right hon. Gentleman be thorough; let him disfranchise Ireland, and thus do away with the necessity of discussing Irish affairs in this House. Let him disfranchise Scotland. Let him disfranchise Wales. The right hon. Gentleman could not grapple with this question by any small expedient. The only mode of grappling with it was by giving to local Governments the management of local affairs and keeping for this Assembly the management and control of Imperial affairs. He was not making what was called a Home Rule speech. He was looking at the question from the point of view of the House of Commons, and in his opinion the only reasonable solution was a system of devolution and the reservation of this Chamber for the discussion of great Imperial affairs. At the present moment in respect to every part of the United Kingdom that there were grave, weighty, and serious problems awaiting discussion was as true of England and Scotland as it was of Ireland—yet none of those now in the House of Commons could hope to live to take part in the discussion of those problems which would have to be discussed by another generation, simply because the attempt had been made to carry out the ruinous policy of trying to transact business which would absorb the time of three or four Assemblies. In Canada alone there were eight legislative Assemblies for a population of 5,000,000, and those eight Assemblies were kept hard at work for six months in the year. He welcomed the speech of the Prime Minister, as from his point of view it was the most important statement that had been made for years, and in view of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, in his opinion, the day could not be far distant when the people would awake to the true facts of the situation, and they would save, in the only way they could save, this Assembly by a system of devolution.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) moved an Amendment asking the House to decline to assent to any proposal to prevent legitimate discussion on matters vitally affecting the liberty of the subject. He said it was the unanimous opinion on his side of the House that a more remarkable speech than that of the Prime Minister that afternoon had never before been delivered. They expected that the right hon. Gentleman would give some reasons for the extraordinary proposals he had made, but he had not put forward a single reason why these drastic proposals should be adopted. On the contrary, the right hon. Gentleman had thought it his duty to introduce what was practically a Home Rule debate. A stranger coming into the gallery that afternoon during the right hon. Gentleman's speech might have supposed, not that he was proposing a closure Motion, but that he was submitting a measure of Home Rule for the whole country. The right hon. Gentleman had not thought it his duty to give any reasons of a substantial character why this Motion was made. The only thing he had said which in any way approached a reason was that the Government were in a complete muddle, and that, having so managed things from the beginning of the session until now, it was their duty to closure the Aliens Bill. That suggested that the Leader of the House had only to get business into a muddle in the early part of the session in order to closure any matter on the basis that the House should rise on August 12th. That was an extraordinary proposal for the Prime Minister to make. He was not foolish enough to suppose that he could induce the House to accept the Amendment of which he had given notice. Rightly or wrongly the principle of closure by compartments had become an accepted part of the machinery of the House, and they were bound to face that fact. Personally he regretted it, because, if they were to keep their present Parliamentary conditions and ignore the necessity for devolution, he was in favour of a more frequent and drastic use of the individual closure combined with new conditions as to divisions in the House. That would be better for the freedom of debate, for safeguarding the individual liberty of Members, and, on the whole, better for the dignity of Parliament itself.

He disliked the guillotine in the first place because it conduced to laxity and indifference on the part of Ministers themselves. What did it matter to the right hon. Gentleman how they occupied their time at the beginning of the session so long as he knew that he had an instrument by which, with a docile majority to support him, he could carry any Bill he pleased? That was a pity from the Parliamentary point of view. Ministers cared little whether their Votes in Committee of Supply were discussed or not because they knew perfectly well that at ten o'clock on certain days the guillotine would fall, and the Votes would be passed. It was possible that the guillotine might place in the hands of an unscrupulous Minister in future a power which would prevent proper discussion of the most vital points of a measure. In that way some of the most objectionable proposals of a particular Bill might not be discussed at all. Under the power which they were taking to-day, if the Motion was passed, the

Government would be able to insert clauses which might never have been printed at all, and which might totally frustrate the very decisions which the Committee had already arrived at. If they were to have the guillotine, due and proper notice ought to be given by the Ministry of their intention to propose it. In the present instance it was only the previous morning that this Motion was handed in at the Table. What a precedent the Prime Minister was setting for future Governments. It was a dangerous precedent to set, and it was one that might possibly be followed in future.

When such a proposal was brought forward the Government ought to make out an overwhelming case in favour of it. They had not attempted to make out any case whatever for the Motion. The right hon. Gentleman had not suggested that there had been obstruction. Of course, he could not, for he had not been present during the debates in Committee. Would the Attorney-General or the Home Secretary take the responsibility of saying that there had been obstruction with regard to this Bill? There had only been obstruction on one occasion between nine and ten o'clock, and it was obstruction which came from the supporters of the Government. The other evening an Amendment was proposed by the Government which the Opposition accepted, but for over an hour the supporters of the Government spoke in favour of it. Was not that obstruction? It was certainly not an effort to hasten the progress of the Bill. At the present moment there were on the Paper ninety-nine Amendments in the names of supporters of the Government, and only forty-one in the names of Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House. That was an indication that, on the Opposition side of the House, they were not anxious to obstruct the Bill. At the same time they were entitled to criticise the Bill and to suggest Amendments. That the discussions on the Bill which had already taken place had been useful was proved by the fact that the Home Secretary had on many occasions been so impressed by the arguments adduced that definite decisions had been postponed with regard to the matters brought forward.

The proposal now before the House ought to have associated with it a condition that it would be impossible to prevent the discussion of the more important parts of the measure. Who could pretend that there had been any consideration given to that? Had the Motion been manufactured in the Whips' room without any regard whatever to the merits of the Bill? In the short time which had been available for the discussion of the measure Members of the Opposition had been able to show that the foundations on which it rested were absolutely unsound. They had been able to show that the claim of the Government that it would keep out undesirable aliens, was a bogus and a hollow claim. The Home Secretary had admitted that it would not keep them out. That was something to have achieved in the course of the debates. They had proved further that the calculations of the Government had been misleading as to the extent of the evil with which they were dealing. The Secretary to the Board of Trade had stated that the annual influx of aliens was 75,000, but the senior Member for Oldham had proved beyond dispute that the number was only between 6,000 and 7,000. He ventured to say that the Government themselves would not deny that the discussions on the Bill had been useful.

If the proposal of the Government with regard to the time which was to be given for the consideration of the Bill was carried some of the most important matters in it could not be adequately discussed. Practically no time was to be allowed for the consideration of the question of political asylum in this country. On Monday they were to be asked to deal with that question, also with the qualifications of the immigration board, and the question of the rules to be issued by the Home Secretary. These rules would have a very far-reaching effect indeed. On the Monday they would also have to deal with the important question of expulsion, which was one that ought to be most carefully considered. It was going to be possible under that clause to expel a person because he was living in a crowded neighbourhood under insanitary conditions. The consideration of that clause was absolutely debarred by the proposals of the Government. Then also on Monday they had to deal with the question of expense in connection with the operations of the Bill. Was it possible for the Committee to deal with all those matters when they were going to give a blank cheque to the Government? The Prime Minister was asking for impossibilities and proposing that this Bill should be passed without discussion. On Tuesday they would have four-and-a-half hours in which to settle the manufacture of new offences. A person simply had to fail to give complete information as to his antecedents and it would be possible to send him to prison for giving false information. No limit of time was fixed and yet all those matters would be discussed under the operations of the rule. At the Evening Sitting on the Tuesday there was the important question of definition to be raised and the rest of the Bill was practically to be passed in a very few hours. The Government could not honestly pretend that under the proposed arrangement it would be possible to discuss the Bill with any degree of satisfaction.

He could understand a new Government, with a mandate from the country, and bringing forward far-reaching proposals, treating the House in this manner, but they had a Government that lacked the confidence and support of the country. The Prime Minister's present colleagues were not in the Cabinet when the last appeal was made to the country. All the strong men then in the Government had left the right hon. Gentleman, and he was presuming too much in putting a Motion of this kind before the House. The Government had no right to submit these proposals, for which no case had been made out. There had been no obstruction or desire to delay the passage of the Bill, but, if the criticisms were allowed to continue the country would be made alive to the bogus and hollow character of the Bill. It contained conditions which might be used with very great severity and injustice against particular individuals. On those grounds he begged to move the Amendment.

*MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) had much pleasure in seconding the Amendment. In his speech the Prime Minister had treated the question of Parliamentary procedure in a general way, but whilst that portion of the right hon. Gentleman's speech was interesting it contained no proposals of any value. The other part of the speech which had reference to this particular proposal was strangely halting in its sentences for so eloquent a speaker and was extremely thin in its arguments. The House must have noticed that the claims of the Government to closure by compartments were increasing year by year in their severity. In 1902 there was the Education Act treated in that manner, and last year they had the Licensing Bill, which was only allowed an extremely short discussion before the closure was applied. Now after three days of discussion—which had been on the whole an extremely businesslike discussion—they were asked to pass this Aliens Bill under closure by compartments. The Prime Minister had confused the actual issue before the House, which was doubtless suffering from serious malaise because it did not represent the authority of the country. There was no possibility of getting legislation through satisfactorily so long as the House was in its present false position. Another consideration was that each session was getting shorter and shorter. Last year they had six and a-half months, but this year they only had a bare six months. Another fortnight would have made an enormous difference in the time available for legislative purposes. Although the holidays at Easter and Whitsuntide were very welcome to jaded legislators, they made a big hole in the time of the session, and further, while the present Government was in power, Ascot week was given up to discussions of a practically uncontroversial nature, and with which often no advancement was subsequently made.

The principal question in this Bill was admittedly not one of a violently controversial kind, but, making allowances for that, he could safely assert that the action of the Government upon this Bill was never less justified. The Amendments now upon the Paper only ran to ten pages. They had already got through two pages a day of them, and if either the Prime Minister or the Minister in charge of the Bill could take the House into his confidence and help the passage of the Bill by an appeal to Members to accelerate the discussion of Amendments, he was perfectly certain that the Bill could have been passed in a few days without resorting to closure by compartments. More than one page out of the ten was taken up with Amendments moved by the Home Secretary as an acknowledgment of the justice of the criticisms made upon the Bill. Then two-thirds of the Amendments were in the names of supporters of the Government, and only one-third were in the names of Opposition Members. He ventured to say, on behalf of those sitting on that side of the House, that in criticising the Bill they had not tried to waste the time of the House. Personally he was a strong critic of the Bill, because he had studied the case put forward by the Government, and, to his mind, it had completely broken down. Last year he was in favour of the Bill, but in the meantime he had found out how weak was the case of the Government. The Opposition had merely tried to improve the Bill and to make it less objectionable, and the Home Secretary's concessions showed how justified were their criticisms. In a very few days the Bill would have passed through Committee, and they would not have objected to the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule in order to expedite the passage of the Bill.

He also desired to point out the serious effect on future discussions if closure by compartments were to be resorted to. The Government would merely have to sit tight in their places while the allotted time was being used, and the closure would come automatically. They (the Government) would have no inducement to curtail any particular portion of the debate, and the professional talker, who was so often in evidence between nine and ten o'clock, would be able to further waste the time of the House. They could not discuss in the seven and a half-hours proposed the ten or eleven very important topics still left in Clauses 1, 2, and 3 of the Bill. That was perfectly impossible, and it would inflict a very great injustice upon those interested in the Bill to carry through the Prime Minister's proposal. It would further seriously operate against the good working of the Bill if so many important points were to be struck out as must be the effect of agreeing to the Motion of the Government. He begged to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, to leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of Question, and insert the words 'having regard to the small amount of time already devoted to the consideration of the Aliens Bill in Committee, and the failure of the Government to press forward the measure at an earlier period of the session, this House declines to assent to any proposal having as its object the prevention of legitimate discussion on matters vitally affecting the liberty of the subject.' "—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'the' in line 1, stand part of the Question."

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) thought hon. Gentlemen opposite were putting themselves in rather a delicate and difficult position by opposing this Motion. They had told the supporters of the Government repeatedly in the debate that they were an obsolete and used-up majority, and that at the earliest moment the Opposition were going to take the Government side of the House and the conduct of the business. When that happy time arrived and legislative schemes were brought forward of a much greater and more beneficent character than anything the present Government could propose, hon. Members opposite might find themselves compelled to resort to the method of closure by compartments, whilst hon. Members now sitting on the Government side of the House would probably use the same methods of discussion as were now employed by hon. Gentlemen opposite.

The Leader of the Opposition said that this was a third-rate measure. If that were so, he thought it was rather a pity that the Opposition had not shown a little more silent contempt for it. He could say that he had looked in occasionally for a quarter of an hour when the Bill was being discussed, and certainly found that it was being debated with the same vigour as any other measure. He did not think that a distinction which would serve the position very much in the future when hon. Gentlemen opposite expected to occupy the Treasury Benches; for it would not lie in their mouths to say that they were bringing forward such small and contemptible measures that any excuse of that kind should prevail. The difficulty which they had to meet was not of obstruction in the sense of talking nonsense, but the difficulty of the House of Commons not having a due sense of proportion—of giving too much time to comparatively small measures and too little to important Bills. The hon. Member for Waterford said they could set free the time of the House by taking away Irish local business. That would leave still too much to be done; they must take away also the business of Scotland, Wales, and the Colonies. That depended on the disposition of the House. If the House wished to quarrel over the hundredth part of a hair, it could spend just as much time over it, after taking away half or three-fourths of the business now on hand. He thought this system of closure by compartments was only the very first step to a much larger measure. The only principle on which the House of Commons could conduct its business was to exercise good sense, moderation, and the sense of proportion—to give to the different subjects their due time for discussion in relation to the full time at the disposal of the House. If not, they would have to lay down a general timetable in introducing a measure; and specify how much time could be devoted to the measure. In that limited time the main principles of the Bill could be discussed, leaving the details to be threshed out outside. He must say that he agreed with the Prime Minister that eleven days out of seventy-three was too little time given for legislation this year.

As to a fixed end to the session, if the difficulties were so strong as the Prime Minister said they were, it was most unfortunate that the beginning of the session should not have been made a fortnight earlier. There was one point on which he heartily agreed with the hon. Member for Waterford, and that was that it was unreasonable that their arrangements should be such that they were kept there in July and August. The business of the session should be so arranged that time should be given for the enjoyment of the summer in the country. There were some measures which, 12th August or no 12th August, should be pressed forward. The Prime Minister acknowledged the claims of the Scotch Churches Bill. That was a question which must be decided before the prorogation But there was another Scotch Bill which had strong claims on the attention of the House. They had had, year after year, a Scotch Education Bill brought in, and they had had continually held out to them a prospect of a great and important change being made in the education of Scotland. To disappoint the expectation so often was a very serious matter for the conduct of education, and for the children who were now, as it were, in a transition state and would not get the benefit of it when the new Act came into force. He should like to ask the Prime Minister whether an improvement in the whole educational system of Scotland was to be dangled before them much longer?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he could assure his hon. friend that he was as fully conscious as the hon. Member was of the extreme desirability of passing the Scotch Education Bill this session.

MR. PARKER SMITH said he was extremely glad to hear it. He knew that the Prime Minister had a full sense of the importance of passing that Bill, and he trusted that if they held the House of Commons a little longer to work the measure would have a fair chance of being passed into law. But there were also the Resolutions dealing with the question of redistribution. He trusted that they would be dealt with before they parted for the autumn recess; and that the Resolutions would be debated fully after due notice. There was a growing feeling in Scotland and elsewhere that it would be to the disadvantage of their Party if the education question in Scotland were not dealt with, as the educational prospects of Scotland had been damaged by this delay for the past two or three years.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said that this debate had made a very wide excursion into topics which were more germane to a general consideration of the efficiency of the House of Commons than to the Resolution now before the House. The Prime Minister himself initiated that discussion, and, if he understood aright, the Prime Minister admitted that the House was reduced to the deplorable condition in which it could not properly or efficiently discharge its legislative duties. In other words, that this particular Aliens Bill could not be efficiently and properly dealt with from a Parliamentary point of view.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say that.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that, then, he did not understand the Prime Minister's contention. The Prime Minister made the general assertion that the conditions of Parliamentary work were such that it would be necessary henceforth for the Government to deal with every atom of legislation upon the lines on which the Prime Minister was now dealing with this Bill and which he described as a third-rate measure. Was he right?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: You are quite wrong.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: Then the House of Commons was able to discharge its legislative functions in respect to the Bill. If that were so, this proposal was unnecessary. With great respect to the Prime Minister he suggested to the right hon. Gentleman that he was on the horns of a dilemma. If the right hon. Gentleman could effectively pass legislation without machinery of this kind for every Bill, be it large or small, why introduce this Resolution; but if he could not pass it, then the House of Commons was impotent to pass any measure without a Resolution of this kind.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I never said anything of the kind at all.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said he accepted the disclaimer of the right hon. Gentleman; but what was the position? They had a Bill which it was admitted was a third-rate measure.

Mr. Atherley-Jones.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Admitted by whom?

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said he understood that the right hon. Gentleman said it was a third-rate measure.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Does the hon. and learned Gentleman confuse me with the Leader of the Opposition?

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said he was not confusing the right hon. Gentleman with the Leader of the Opposition. As a loyal supporter of the Leader of the Opposition he would be very reluctant to make that confusion. Certainly he did understand the right hon. Gentleman to say that this was not a first-rate measure.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said nothing of the kind.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: Then it must be a measure of capital importance. If it were a measure of capital importance, he asked the right hon. Gentleman how it was reasonable to confine discussion of it in Committee to five days? They had had three days discussion in Committee, and in these three days they had dealt with only one portion of the first clause and that by no means the most important. The important part of the Bill, which they had only touched the fringe of, was that which dealt with the economic question. But, to his mind, the central part of the Bill was the power given to the Executive of the country to exclude political refugees—he said that advisedly—and the power given to the immigration officer and the immigration board without control. Then there were the vast powers conceded to the Home Secretary to make rules, which went to the root of the whole immigration problem. Next, there was the constitution of the immigration board to be considered. Now, all these matters of capital importance were to be relegated to a two nights discussion—

or ten or twelve hours in all. Was not that a scandal? He appealed to the Prime Minister whether he did not feel that that was not fair treatment of the House in respect of these important questions. He did not want to lecture the right hon. Gentleman, but it should be remembered that the right hon. Gentleman was not only Leader of his Party but Leader of the House of Commons, and the trustee of the honour and dignity of that great Assembly. Why did the right hon. Gentleman, if he always thought as he now did as to the inefficiency of the House of Commons, allow three days time to be wasted over the least important parts of the Bill? If the right hon. Gentleman knew that the most important parts of the Bill were to be guillotined, why did he not take time by the forelock and warn the House when he introduced the Bill that he was only going to allow five days for the whole Bill in Committee, and distribute the time according to the importance of the clauses? He was a man without authority in the House, but he had been there twenty years. He never had been a strong Party man, but he was jealous of the authority and dignity of the House of Commons, and he looked to the right hon. Gentleman, as the Leader of the House, to preserve that honour and dignity. If any incident could affect his estimate of the right hon. Gentleman, as the custodian of the privileges of the House of Commons, it was this Motion. After three days had been given to only a shred of the measure, they had now the prospect of a miserable microscopic atom of time being allotted to the most important part of the Bill.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said that the hon. Gentleman indicated that, in his opinion, the time of the House occupied in the consideration of the Bill had been wasted.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said he did not state that the time had been wasted.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW said that the hon. Gentleman stated that three days had been wasted.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that his contention was that three days were wasted on the least important part of the Bill; and that only two days were to be allowed for the most important part.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW said he was sceptical whether the Motion, if proposed at the commencement of the proceedings on the Bill, would have been accepted by the Opposition. He did not desire so much to discuss the merits or demerits of the proposal before the House, but he wished to emphasise the remarks of his hon. friend the Member for Partick as to the manner in which the Motion would affect the Scotch Education Bill. The hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs who introduced the Amendment was a Scottish Member, and he did not think the hon. Gentleman would disagree when he said that three-fourths of the Scottish Members were most anxious to see legislative effect in some form or another given to the proposals of the Government with reference to education in Scotland. Yet the hon. Member introduced an Amendment which would make it impossible to consider that question at all. He did not think the hon. Gentleman could have considered the matter from that point of view. All interested in education in Scotland felt that the question should not be allowed to hang over from session to session; and it was a matter of the utmost importance that there should be legislation on the subject, as the present position was paralysing educational effort in Scotland. He earnestly hoped that the Prime Minister would press forward his Motion; and, as a consequence, endeavour to find time for the Education Bill for Scotland.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.) said that the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken, and the hon. Member for Partick, had indicated that the speech of the Prime Minister was really a massacre of the innocents. Surely, in that event, the names of the measures to be sacrificed should be given to the House. There was the Scotch Education Bill, the Unemployed Bill, and the Workmen's Compensation Bill, in which hon. Members on both sides were interested. It was, therefore, important to know not only how the Motion would affect the Bill to which it nominally referred, but also how it would affect the other legislation before the House. The more expenditure increased, the more necessary it was that the time occupied in discussing it should also be increased. That meant that the Government should consider when Parliament was about to meet, not only the legislation mentioned in the King's Speech, but also Supplementary Estimates and all the Departmental minutiæ involved in the present arrangement of the business of the House.

The right hon. Gentleman talked about legislation occupying only eleven days; but he forgot to tell the House that on two, if not three occasions, time was wasted because the Government were not ready with their business. There were a certain number of small Government measures required in order to oil the wheels of the Administration; and now the House was to be punished because at an earlier stage of the session the Government was disorganised and unable to manage the business of the House or the country. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the eloquence that was always forthcoming; but the hon. Gentlemen the Members for Peckham and the Central Division of Sheffield could make up any deficiency in that respect which might arise. He remembered two occasions on which they occupied between two and three hours a day in taking up the time of the House on subjects with which they were not well acquainted in order that Members of the Party opposite, who were somewhat tardy in their attendance, might be hunted out of the holes and corners of this city. When in 1888 it was found necessary to introduce the guillotine, a far longer period was given to the House to consider it; and in 1893 when Mr. Gladstone put down a guillotine Motion, a fortnight was allotted to consider its full effect. Now only a day and a-half was given in order that hon. Gentlemen might make themselves fully acquainted with the effect of the proposal.

As regarded the Bill, it involved a new principle and a new departure which might have a very serious effect on the liberty of the subject. There was one point which had escaped the notice of previous speakers. The right hon. Gentleman stated that debate was very difficult in an Assembly as large as this; and he drew attention to the fact that he proposed to introduce some proposal with reference to redistribution; but whether the House of Commons were large or small it should have full and free discussion on questions of principle and also of detail, especially in regard to a measure such as the Aliens Bill. In his own experience his right hon. friend the late Secretary of State for India who was in charge of the Parish Councils Bill, informed him that time would not permit of the insertion of a few words which he, himself, desired to move. He yielded to what he thought was the better judgment of his right hon. friend; but it took two Acts of Parliament and two Orders in Council to make good the deficiency in the Act which his Amendment would have provided. Similarly, if the Aliens Bill were allowed to pass without adequate discussion, the Government would find themselves hampered in subsequently bringing in Amendments. This Motion might ease their shoulders to-day, but it would render the burden much heavier to-morrow. There should be the fullest possible discussion on a measure of this kind. New proposals such as these could not be discussed too fully, if any advantage were to be got out of the Bill.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that with the general remarks which had been made he agreed. He agreed especially with the hon. and learned Member for Waterford that the main argument to be drawn from the Motion was devolution. The hon. Gentleman did not, however, give sufficient attention to the relief which would be given if there were an autumn session as every other legislative Assembly had. It was a notable fact that of all the labour programme of the Government the only measure proceeded with was this bastard labour measure which none of the labour leaders believed in or wanted. He had risen to say that which had not yet been said by anyone, but which was applicable to the Motion before the House. He had never thought the Bill was an important one, but he differed to some extent from the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, who had described it as a third-class measure. It had declined into a third-class measure by reason of the criticisms that had been brought against it, but it was a first-class measure when one noticed the novelty of the principles involved, and the way in which it struck at the root of the principle of asylum of which this country was proud. That was the main portion of the Bill which most needed to be discussed in the House of Commons, and it was not likely to be discussed as matters stood. A short debate took place on the Bill on its introduction, and he then pointed out that there was a danger that there would be closure by compartments, and that these would be the parts of the Bill that would be shut out from discussion. He quoted the speech of the hon. and gallant Member for Stepney, in which the hon. and gallant Gentlemen said he had had a conversation with the Prime Minister, who had said compartment closure would be resorted to to pass this Bill. The hon. and gallant Gentlemen then rose and said that the statement was not correct and he accepted the statement of the hon. and gallant Gentleman. The latter then rose and said—

> "I prefaced that remark by saying that I hoped that all the machinery at the disposal of the Government would be used to pass the Bill. I adhere to that hope. I did not commit the Prime Minister at all."

But there could be no doubt that whether the promise to closure by compartments was made or not the statement that such a promise had been made was freely used, and in the East End it was believed that the right hon. Gentleman had promised that when this Bill reached Committee compartment closure would be used to force it through the House. The Committee had had on this Bill three days debate, which was not too much considering that this Bill was the first Bill mentioned in the King's Speech, and that it contained most novel principles. He himself had done everything he could in the earlier portions of the Bill to shorten discussion in order that the Committee might reach the most critical portion of the measure, namely, the way in which political and religious refugees would be dealt with. So far as the earlier portions of the Bill were concerned the discussions had not been very long. In the critical part of the Bill a provision had been inserted to meet the case of the political refugee. But that provision did not meet the case of the political refugee, and they were most anxious to have an opportunity of persuading the Committee to amend that portion of the Bill in Committee. Then there had been a complete failure so far as the Bill went to provide for the case of religious refugees. No attempt had been made to deal with the case of victims of religious persecution. That no attempt should be made to preserve the principle of asylum in this country for the victims of religious persecution was a dreadful thing, and it would be monstrous if they were debarred from any discussion on that point.

There were two questions coming before this which had to be discussed, one of which must, and the second of which might, take time. One was a question which had never been discussed in this House at all but which had been one of the main questions for discussion in other Parliaments. He alluded to the question of labour under contract. That was a cross issue and would lead to cross divisions in this country, as it had done in Australia, the United States, and Canada, and it was certain that the discussion upon that question would last for some time. Moreover, the Home Secretary had placed on the Paper that day an Amendment relating to aliens who were diseased. It would be necessary to consider whether that Amendment would bring the Bill into conflict with our anti-quarantine legislation. All that part of the Bill of last year was left out and nothing was done in that regard in the Bill. Now for the first time there appeared on the Paper an Amendment, of which to say the least it was necessary that there should be some explanation; because as the Bill stood at the present moment the only destitute or undesirable alien who must be landed in this country was one suffering from infectious disease, because our law and Local Government Board regulations insisted upon a person suffering from infectious disease on board ship being removed from the ship to the shore, and the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman raised the whole of that question. Therefore as the matter stood there was the gravest doubt whether on Monday next they would have time properly to discuss the wholly insufficient provision in regard to political refugees and the difficult question of preserving the right of asylum of the victims of religious persecution. As the Bill stood, if the Apostles came to this country, if St. Augustine again came to the portion of the country represented by the Home Secretary, they would be shut out, and before a House of Commons which had lost its representative character should for the first time adopt a principle of that kind, there ought to be full discussion and an opportunity of moving Amendments.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said that every year 250,000 emigrants, half of whom were colonists, passed through this country on their way to the western lands and we also received annually nearly 100,000 immigrants from the United States, Canada, and South America. Under those circumstances it was only right to pay great attention to the words and principle of this Bill. What had been their experience with regard to the progress of this measure? Over thirty Amendments had already been discussed. The greater portion of those Amendments had been ingeniously drawn up by hon. Gentlemen opposite with the object of discussing various subjects before the clauses to which they had reference were reached. The result was that almost every point of real importance had already been discussed. One or two, perhaps, had not been thoroughly discussed. For instance, the point with regard to contract labour was a very important point, but he ventured to think it was only by passing this Resolution that they could reasonably expect to have an opportunity of discussing the vital points that remained to be dealt with.

MR. RUFUS ISAACS (Berkshire, Reading) said whatever charges were levelled against the members of the Opposition, he, at least, might be entitled to some credit for not having obstructed the proceedings of the House. Hitherto he had been reserving himself for this Bill, upon which he would like to say a few words in view of the present situation. It appeared that the main point of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean was one on which there was to be very little discussion, because of the time available under the Resolution proposed by the Prime Minister. But let them pause and consider who was responsible for the situation which was causing so much concern to the right hon. Gentleman and the House. Might he suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that nothing had happened in the discussions on this Bill which was not to be expected on a measure of this character, introducing controversial subjects. Was it not to be expected that Members of the House should desire an opportunity of stating their views and of pressing such arguments as they thought best to bring to bear upon hon. Members and the House? That, apparently, had not been foreseen by the right hon. Gentleman. Was it supposed that the words in Sub-section 30, Section 1 of the Bill, which raised the whole question of political refugees, was not to be discussed? Did that not involve one of the most important rights we had been accustomed, here, to give to those who came to us from abroad? Did it not involve the question of the safe asylum of this country to those who were persecuted, and was not the House to have the opportunity of discussing moderately and fairly the proposition that an exception should be made in favour of those who came here solely for the purpose of avoiding prosecution for an offence of a political character. Under this Bill an asylum would be refused to a man who sought it in order to avoid prosecution for an offence of a political character.

They had had three days discussion in Committee on this Bill and they were now told that that was too much. The ordinary man in the street would have known that this Bill was impossible of discussion in the five days it had been before the House. He understood that only eleven days of a total of seventy-three had been given to legislation. As a new Member of the House he had his lessons to learn, but he had been sitting and learning them now for some time, and he would have thought, even without becoming a Member and certainly without becoming Prime Minister, that it was possible to remedy that position with the greatest ease. Those who were responsible for the conduct of the business of the House ought to foresee the amount of time that would be required for the measures they intended to introduce and to take precautions to ensure sufficient time for their full discussion. The means by which the necessary time could have been secured was very simple, and entirely in the hands of the Prime Minister. Parliament might have met considerably earlier in the year—for he presumed the Government had then made up its mind to introduce this Aliens Bill, involving the principles included in the sections not yet discussed. As a new Member he could not help saying that, judging from his short experience of the way in which Parliamentary affairs were conducted, the House of Commons, as a means of passing legislation, was a very ineffective body indeed.

The principle to which he had chiefly referred had not been discussed in Committee at all. Many Members on both sides of the House were anxious to discuss the question and have safeguards inserted. It was true that the Home Secretary had expressed his willingness to add after "avoid prosecution" the words "or punishment on religious grounds." But that was a purely illusory concession. Whether it was a Russian Jew who had been persecuted or an Armenian Christian who had suffered in consequence of his religion, the case could not be brought within the terms "punishment on religious grounds." The would-be immigrant would have to show that he was avoiding prosecution for an offence, and, even though his life had been made unbearable, if he had not been threatened with prosecution he would not come within the provision. If the proposed concession meant that the Home Secretary desired to exclude from the operation of the clause all who were forced to flee from their country because of persecution on religious grounds the words were inept for the purpose. If, on the other hand, the right hon. Gentleman did not mean to exclude such persons from the operation of the clause, the concession was illusory and not intended to have the effect desired by many Members on either side of the House. He therefore submitted that the Resolution before the House ought not to have been proposed, and that greater time should have been allowed in order that the measure might be properly discussed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The House has listened to the first speech of an hon. and learned Gentleman who has a deservedly high reputation in other spheres of activity and whose intervention in our debates I am sure all of us welcome. If I may venture a criticism, not upon the arguments which he advanced, but upon the appropriateness of the occasion on which he advanced them, I would almost suggest that the hon. and learned Member was so impressed with the short space of time to be given to the discussions of points in which he is interested that he has anticipated the debate of Monday, and made now the speech which he is afraid he will be excluded by this Resolution from making on that occasion. I do not quarrel with the hon. and learned Gentleman, and I raise no objection, except to say that I hope his example will not be followed in the course of the present debate.

There was one point in the hon. and learned Gentleman's speech which did not deal with the Bill, but which dealt with a subject more germane to the Amendment—namely, the shortcomings or the supposed shortcomings, of the Government in the management of public business, which, in the opinion of the hon. Member, had made the present Resolution necessary. He said the Government ought to have foreseen the length of the debates which would inevitably take place on this Bill, and should have taken such precautions in reference to those debates as to make any such special Resolution as we are now discussing wholly unnecessary. I think, if the hon. and learned Gentleman had longer experience of this Assembly, he would know that no Government can have the means of precisely gauging the length of time which a particular debate will take, nor have they the power of taking precautions to prevent the earlier debates thrusting into a too distant period the discussions on any particular measure. Take the present session. How was it possible for the Government to foresee that the discussions in Committee of Supply earlier in the year would be carried to the length to which they actually were? For my part, I do not deny that I think those discussions were far too long. They actually brought us within the verge of breaking the law which governs the financial relations of the country, and it was only by asking the House to take those very precautions which the hon. and learned Gentleman speaks of that we avoided that calamity. We did try to take precautions. We did our best to limit discussions in the early days of Supply, and how were we met? We were met by the Opposition spending two days in discussing the action we took and in doing their very best to prevent us from taking any precautions whatever against what we regarded as an unusual duration of debate. I do not complain of hon. Gentlemen opposite taking that course if they thought it desirable; but it is not fair criticism for hon. Gentlemen to insist on both having their cake and eating it. If they insist on prolonging the discussion on necessary business earlier in the session, the time we can devote to legislative business in the latter part of the session must be curtailed. For hon. Gentlemen to prolong the debates on the earlier stages of Supply. and to abuse the Government because they try to prevent that prolongation assuming too gigantic proportions, and then to abuse the Government for taking no precautions seems to me the maximum of injustice, and shows a total want of comprehension of the way in which business is and must be carried on under our existing rules of procedure.

Other strange criticisms were made on the conduct of the Government. For instance, the senior Member for Oldham said the proper method of dealing with the problem was to have all-night sittings on the Bill.

Mr. EMMOTT: Did I say all-night? I said suspend the twelve o'clock rule.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: If that makes any difference, I apologise. To carry on the debates late into the night would, the hon. Gentleman thought, be so inconvenient to hon. Members that frivolous Amendments would not be moved, and hon. Members would concentrate their whole attention on really important matters. I have had considerable experience of late sittings, and I have never seen this happy result arrived at. On the contrary, the very first thing that happens is that at about 12.30 or 12.45 some hon. Gentleman moves the adjournment; pointing with indignant fingers to the clock and saying that at that hour of the night it is impossible to discuss serious matters in proper a spirit. On discussing this Motion hon. Members spend half or three-quarters of an hour; it can only be brought to a conclusion by closure, and in the division another quarter of an hour is lost. That is the way in which the hon. Gentleman apparently thinks we should have best provided for the quiet sober discussion of the really important matters in this Bill, and avoided all extraneous matters of controversy. When that is proposed by so important a Member on the other side—and it is the only remedy proposed by the Opposition—I think we may estimate the difficulty of the situation and the impossibility of finding any other solution than that which we propose.

There is one other point connected with the conduct of business. It was said that it would have been much wiser for the Government in the interests of discussion on this Bill to say beforehand how many days would be allowed for it, so that a better proportion could have been kept between the different clauses of the Bill, and the really important points brought into relief. I think that is undoubted. It is perfectly true that it would have been much better could the allocation have been made before the Committee stage instead of after it had gone on two or three days. But what would have been said by hon. Gentlemen opposite if, without proof from experience of the length of time which they thought necessary for the discussion of the Bill, I had said that five days only should be occupied by the Committee stage, and had asked the House to spend a day in arranging the compartments in which the Bill should be dealt with?

That, of course, would have been an impossible situation, and I should not have been listened to for a moment. This is another instance of the way in which hon. Gentlemen opposite complain of the Government for not adopting remedies which they themselves would repudiate in the most vehement language were they not the authors of the suggestion. It must be remembered that we have already spent three days on the first clause. The second and third clauses, which are contained in the next compartment and will have to be dealt with on Monday, are non-controversial, and therefore practically the whole of Monday can, if hon. Gentlemen so desire, be devoted to the remainder of the first clause, the importance of which I am the last to deny. But surely four days in Committee is sufficient for the first clause of the Bill. On what proportion are you going to arrange your legislation if, in a Bill which is alleged to be of third-class importance, four days is not sufficient to deal with the first clause? You would never get through legislation at all if that were so. I am not prepared to admit that the time given is too little; but I would remind right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite that, although questions which still have to be decided by the Committee on Clause 1 have not all been already discussed, a very great number of them have, and that perhaps the majority of the topics which will come up finally for decision in the course of Monday have already enjoyed a preliminary discussion.

On the wider issue of Home Rule all round raised by the hon. Member for Waterford, I need hardly say I do not mean to dwell; but I may be allowed to express my opinion that whatever be the method of relieving this House of the duties which it insists on taking on itself, with regard to the discussion of Supply and other matters of Government criticism, it is vain to suppose that any delegation which would leave this House the legislative Chamber for the United Kingdom would have any effect in the way of lightening our labours. That must be done, partly by the self-control of Members, and partly by some modification of our system. That we can do anything by such delegation is really a vain hope; hon. Gentlemen have only got to consider the topics which do occupy our time in a session—to go through them one by one and see whether they can do without this or that. Any candid investigator, in whatever direction he may look for relief, will discover that it is not in such practical changes as hon. Gentlemen appear to suggest.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said the Prime Minister had talked a good deal about the guillotine being inevitable, and some of them agreed with him in that, but the point was that he had not attempted to justify the guillotine in this particular instance. The guillotine might be inevitable, but it was an inevitable evil, and he felt perfectly certain that the right hon. Gentleman would admit that it was not a remedy which ought to be resorted to unless it was perfectly clear that there were no other means open to the Government of getting this Bill through. Consequently the Government ought to justify the Resolution now before the House. He did not notice in the speech of the Prime Minister any attempt to justify the application of this drastic Resolution to the particular measure before the House. The right hon. Gentleman never said a word about the House having met three weeks later than usual after a prolonged holiday. [" No, no!"] The House met about the second or third week in February, and it generally met in January. [" No."] The House generally met at the end of January if there was a big programme to put before it. Consequently the right hon. Gentleman sacrificed a fortnight or three weeks time which might have otherwise been devoted to measures of this kind. Everybody knew the reason why, for it was done deliberately. The Prime Minister promised his supporters when he invited them to attend more regularly that the work he would give them would not be very hard. That was the bargain he made with his supporters. Therefore, they were really paying to the extent of sacrificing Parliamentary institutions and efficiency for the political troubles of a Prime Minister who could not keep his supporters together. They would not stay late, and they would not come early, and the result was that the House of Commons had got to suffer, and precedents were being set up which future Governments would take advantage of. Every Government in the future would be pressed by its supporters to apply these precedents, and the pressure would be irresistible. The Prime Minister was setting up precedent after precedent which was really destroying Parliamentary discussion in that House.

He thought the Prime Minister ought to have made out some sort of a case, not necessarily of Parliamentary obstruction, but at any rate of overwhelming difficulty in carrying through this Bill without a Resolution of this sort. What was the case? He had been going through the Amendments, and he found 110 of them were down in the names of hon. Members sitting on the other side of the House, and only thirty-four in the names of Members sitting on the Opposition side. It was really very hard that because the Notice Paper had been overwhelmed by Amendments from the Ministerial side of the House the legitimate Opposition, upon whom devolved the duty of criticising Government measures, should be debarred from a full opportunity of discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The discussion has been mostly upon Amendments from the Opposition side.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that, like the Prime Minister, he had not been present during the whole of the discussions upon this Bill, and consequently they were both dependent upon hearsay evidence. He had, however, another advantage over the Prime Minister, because he read the newspapers. One hon. Member opposite had got seventeen Amendments down and he had said that there would be plenty of time to discuss them. But what about the Amendments of other hon. Members? It was impossible to discuss a Bill of this magnitude in the two days placed at the disposal of the House by the Prime Minister.

What was the real reason for these guillotine Resolutions? He excepted the case of the Education Bill, but in regard to the others the Prime Minister had wasted the time in the first part of the session. He had made up his mind on one point only, namely, that the House must rise between the 11th and the 15th August, which meant the 12th. Having so many days to dispose of, he divided the time not with a view to the adequacy of the discussion but with a view to the exigencies of the 12th August. He thought the guillotine had come to stay until the House found some more rational and civilised method of getting through its business. But he did not think the time ought to be allocated by the Government of the day. That was a fatal error. The Government was bound to consider their own particular difficulties. There ought to be a Committee of Members of Parliamentary standing and experience, who should allocate the time for various measures. The Prime Minister had admitted that the House of Commons was quite incapable of passing more than one big controversial measure in the course of a session, and it could not give full discussion to that. That was an epoch-making admission and it would have great results. The Education Bill took a whole year, and there was no obstruction in the Parliamentary sense. It was perfectly clear that they could not carry even one big controversial measure without some sort of arrangement in the direction of what the Prime Minister described as self-control, and under which there would be no inducement for any Party to waste time. Another alternative was that if they were obliged to have Resolutions of this character they ought to be discussed on their merits. In such a Committee as he had suggested he agreed that they could not eliminate partisanship, but it would be something like the Committees upstairs and they would gradually get together a body of men who would acquire judicial traditions, and they would examine these Bills. In this way they would establish some sort of rule which would prevent Governments from setting up Resolutions such as this and more especially such as the Resolution of last year. When they got some sort of tradition and rule they would be independent of Governments and of political considerations, and it would save the House at any rate from what was tantamount to a Parliamentary scandal in the way of preventing discussion.

He agreed with the hon. and learned Member for Waterford that all these expedients were really temporary and the difficulty was that they really had too much work on hand. What was the reason why they were not getting through the work this session? The Aliens Bill interested England, but it was not a real political problem in Wales. He was not sure that it interested Scotland, and it did not interest Ireland at all. There were, however, problems which affected Scotland and there were two Scottish Bills, and Scotch Members had declared themselves in favour of this Resolution in order to get more time to carry through the Scotch Bills. They wanted to give inadequate discussion to an English Bill in order to get adequate discussion for Scotch Bills. On these measures discussion would be carried on almost exclusively by Scotch Members and they would resent any interference by English or Welsh Members, whom they would accuse of introducing the controversial element. They knew how uncontroversial all Scotch topics were. Take the Scottish Church problem. That ought to be settled by Scotch Members, but they might have a discussion for a week or a fortnight, and consequently, because they insisted upon legislating upon things they did not understand and which would be better settled on the spot, the House was not allowed to discuss the Aliens Bill. They would probably never see the face of the Unemployed Bill again and they would not be allowed to touch the Workmen's Compensation Bill at all. It was really a most unbusinesslike proceeding for the representative House of the greatest commercial nation in the world. In Canada such questions as education and temperance were not dealt with by the Dominion Legislature, but by the local Legislatures, and yet he was recently informed by prominent Canadian statesmen that the Dominion Legislature had enough work to occupy it for six months and often had arrears which were passed on to the next session. Devolution would not altogether settle the problem. Problems were never settled in this world and that was what made it so interesting. At any rate, they appeared to be getting near, and, after all, they could do something better than this sort of futile thing which struck every new Member.

He was interested in the admirable speech of the hon. and learned Member for Reading. What struck him most of all was that this was a futile place to come to do work, and that was what struck every business man. Gradually they got accustomed to it; they got accustomed even to the Prime Minister, and that was what the people of this country could not understand. They almost wondered why physical force was not used towards him sometimes. They got accustomed to all this waste of time, while the business of the nation was not attended to. They had enormous problems on which the health, happiness, and comfort of millions of people depended, but they had to leave them all on one side because they could not find time to attend to them. They were attending to things that people did not want attended to, and which could be much better attended to on the spot. No one knew it better than the Prime Minister himself. The right hon. Gentleman was handicapped by his Party. He had more than admitted the whole case for devolving work on local Assemblies. He, himself, was not quite certain that they would not always have these guillotine Resolutions which were crippling free debate. Hon. Members now on the Government Benches would be opposing Motions of this character in the course of two or three years, and no one with more fire than the Attorney-General, who would trot out all these speeches again with the same emphasis, and probably he would quote speeches delivered on this side of the House in criticism of this particular Resolution, and he would probably feel it too. At any rate, he was enough of an artist to do that. But this was really not getting on with business. [Laughter and cheers.] He was glad that hon. Members opposite agreed. Hon. Members opposite wanted to prevent business being done here. He was not making any observation in any sense offensive to them; if they were opposed to reform they did not want too much work done. No one was interested in the present state of things except those who had a vested interest in wrong and injustice in this country.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said his belief was that the House was perfectly competent for the performance of the business that properly belonged to it. He was firmly convinced that any such scheme as the hon. Gentleman opposite had suggested, namely, the handing over to a Committee the choice of business, and the constituting of a sort of permanent Committee of executioners, would be the most impracticable method of all. He thought they could pass only one big controversial Bill in a session. [Cries of "Oh!"] How many did they want? His belief was that that was quite enough. It was generally too much. The true business of Parliament was not to pass Acts of Parliament, but to deliberate upon them, and in nine cases out of ten to show that they ought not to be passed. If they wanted their one great measure passed, there was something, he admitted, to be said for the device of calling Parliament together very early in the year, say at the end of January, and introducing the big controversial measure immediately, or as soon as they could, and setting to work at once and prosecuting it to the end. There were Leaders of the House in the old days who managed that way, and who did pass very great measures without any power of closure, and without any compartmental guillotine. But they were riders who rode the House with a light touch, and found it unnecessary to resort to any of these terrific and drastic remedies.

The remedies of hon. Gentlemen opposite were counsels of despair. He confessed that he regarded this Resolution as the outcome of the counsels of violence. He did not think the system of compartmental closure by guillotine as applied in the past had been encouraging for the future. The last example was the Education Bill of 1902. In his opinion it was that alone which made the Bill unworkable, and the House of Commons otherwise could have made it workable. Although this Resolution would certainly be passed, he doubted whether it would get the majority of 132 by which that closure Resolution was carried in 1902. But if ever there was a Bill which required the work which the House did so well in Committee it was the Aliens Bill. In this Bill it was not so much the principle that was in question. That part of the measure which would exclude criminal and diseased aliens all Members in all parts of the House were agreed upon. Where the difficulty in this Bill came in was in rendering it workable. It was precisely there where the House of Commons had always had great success. If they allowed any sort of Bill to go through Committee of this House comparatively unclosured, whatever defects it might have, it would most undoubtedly be a workable Bill. That was why the Education Bill had proved so lamentably unworkable. The present Bill had been claimed as a first step towards protection. They had been told by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham that it was useless to keep out men unless they also kept out the articles they made, and that was to be done by the famous 10 per cent. on manufactured articles. He did not know whether his right hon. friend the Prime Minister admitted the claim that he was a convert to protection because this Bill was a first step inevitably to be followed by a second step towards protection. But it was believed by a good judge of protection to have that element in it. Therefore the Bill had another interest for himself.

This Resolution had a two-fold side. It involved closure, and it, more or less, directly involved protection. His small differences with His Majesty's Government had almost all turned on attempts to reduce the power, independence, and usefulness of this House. Any other differences had involved questions in regard to taxes on food. This Resolution involved both these points. The Resolution did undoubtedly diminish the power of the House, and, as he should show, it did other things of an entirely novel character. For the first time a Motion of this sort dealt with the Chairman of Ways and Means. The House knew that the Chairman of Ways and Means had great authority. He had power when private business was set down at a morning sitting, absolutely to settle at what evening sitting it should be taken. His power extended even to the evening sitting, which was allocated to Supply in contradiction of the Order on that subject. This Resolution interfered with the Chairman's inherent right to put down private business at an evening sitting because it prescribed that no opposed private business should be set down on the dates mentioned. He did not know whether that would be attempted to be justified when they came to it. There was another thing that was new in this Resolution. In all previous Resolutions of this kind a proviso had been made that the closure power should only be applied when the Bill set down was the first order of the day. That was not stated here, and it was conceivable that the result might be that on the first Monday, if the Aliens Bill was set down as second, third, or fourth order, it might not be reached until a late hour at night, and after an hour's discussion it might be closured. In all probability the Prime Minister did not mean that. He supposed the right hon. Gentleman would not object to put in words carrying out his intention.

There was one other very grave objection to compartmental closure. The Government assumed that nobody had any knowledge of the Bill but the Government, that nobody had any brains but the Government, that nobody was capable of conceiving an Amendment to the Bill but the Government, and that no other Member could have an Amendment which should be voted on. The Government made the reservation that their Amendments were to be voted on without debate, and that no other body's Amendments were to be voted on. It seemed to him possible that there might be some Members in the House as able as the Home Secretary. They might expect the Government, at any rate, if a Member had drawn an Amendment, to allow it to be voted upon. This closure Resolution was one more confession of the failure of the 1902 rules which were to settle everything.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I said exactly the reverse.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said the right hon. Gentleman stated that the rules would shorten debate. He made that statement not in a speech, but in reply to an hon. Member opposite. The rules had not had the effect of shortening debate. The argument for this Resolution was that the debates on the Aliens Bill would go on at interminable length. He very sincerely regretted that his right hon. friend had thought it necessary to introduce this instrument of torture by which the debating of the Bill was to be prevented.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he had come to the conclusion that the speech delivered that afternoon by the Prime Minister was one of the most important they had ever heard even from him. He agreed with the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs that this was not exactly business, and he would ask the Prime Minister whether he would not endeavour to modify the Resolution in order to meet the objections which had been levelled against it. It had been pointed out that a better arrangement would have been to introduce the Bill at an earlier part of the session. Why was the Bill not put down for Second Reading before Whitsuntide? The right hon. Gentleman had told the House how few days had been devoted to legislation. The right hon. Gentleman could have arranged differently, and he could easily have provided a few more days than those which he had given. If this Resolution was passed what chance would there be for any concession being made to the Opposition as the Bill proceeded? The whole proceedings would be automatic. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would think that it would be foolish to yield anything to the Opposition because he knew that, when the inevitable hour came, he would get the section of the Bill. He did think that when a severe and drastic rule of this kind was adopted the House was put in a most unsatisfactory position. He wished to remind the Prime Minister that it had been pointed out that with the best of intentions it would be impossible for the House to get through the mass of business allotted for the first day under the closure scheme. There was the remainder of Clause 1 to be settled, and then there was Clause 2 which dealt with the immigration board, and Clause 3 with which they were in agreement with the Government. But if the right hon. Gentleman took advantage of that agreement to hope that a long clause would go through without a single opinion being expressed regarding it, he was labouring under a misapprehension. It would be impossible for the House to deal adequately with all the great questions involved in the first day's work.

This proposal was very different to any closure proposals previously moved. The Prime Minister was taking a second great revolutionary step with regard to the business of the House. The first step was the automatic closure of Supply. The right hon. Gentleman had worked that closure for ten years and the result was that he had been able to place an increased expenditure on the backs of the people of this country. He had introduced an era of extravagance such as the country had never before witnessed. In time they would have a Standing Order under which every Bill with no more than three clauses would be closured on the first day; one with any thing from three to eight clauses would be closured in five days; and a Bill with any number of clauses exceeding eight would only be allowed ten days for discussion. If the closure were introduced in this way the result would be that opposition to the measure would break out in the country after the Bill had been passed and there would be a recrudescence of legislation such as the British House of Commons had never yet had to face. The Education Bill was closured by compartments, and during the first year that it was in force there were 22,000 prosecutions for breaking the law, whilst in the second year the number of prosecutions rose to 32,000. The number of people imprisoned during the first year for resisting the Education Act was twenty-four and that number increased to 189 in the second year. That was the sort of trouble caused by unduly closuring debate.

A great deal had been said about the Amendments put down by hon. Gentlemen opposite; but he thought that should be placed to their credit. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon had made a most useful contribution to the debate, and he hoped other hon. Members sitting behind the Prime Minister would follow that example. Most of the opposition had come from the Government Benches and was based on the ground that the proposals could not be worked. He was bound to say that the interference of the Attorney-General had not up to the present been either happy or useful, but then it had to be remembered that a lawyer could not grasp business subtleties. This was not the first Bill they had seen upon the alien question. There was the Bill of last year which they were told was like a page of Holy Writ, and to oppose it was a piece of wickedness. That Bill had gone and another measure, perhaps also of inspiration, but formed on quite different lines to last year's Bill, had been brought them. The immigrant ship which was absent from the Bill of last year sailed across every page of this year's measure, and the expenses which last year were to be thrown upon the State were now to be borne by the shipowner. Some supporters of the Government who professed to represent the shipowners were subservient enough to accept that liability; but they were not entitled to speak for the British shipowners. Then the Prime Minister had not listened to the debate for the first two days, but he looked in on the third day with the closure Resolution in his pocket. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to promise as much time as he could give for the discussion, and if he would go to the further length of saying he would meet one or two criticisms from that side of the House in a friendly spirit he would facilitate the proceedings. They did not oppose all parts of the Bill, and the question remained whether it was not wise for the Government to take what they could get, and, if that was not sufficient for the purposes of the country, to amend the Bill hereafter.

*MR. **SHACKLETON** (Lancashire, Clitheroe) understood that the object of the Prime Minister's proposal was to cut down the time for discussion and to make certain of one measure this year. He could quite conceive that the action of the Opposition on the Second

Reading debate might give rise to an idea that the country wanted the Bill, but the only construction to be placed on such an idea was that if the Opposition only gave the Government plenty of rope they would hang themselves. It was a great mistake to think the country wanted this Bill. When a measure was being pressed forward by the Government at the desire of the people, it was usual to find a number of deputations from the people interested, but in this case no organisation of workmen had so far expressed an opinion in favour of the measure. In fact, all the evidence went to show that the workmen of the country were against it. The Government were pressed for time and proposed to cut out some of the most important Amendments on the Paper. Two-thirds of those Amendments were framed by the supporters of the Government, and if those hon. Members were honest in their endeavour to improve this Bill they would oppose the Government on this proposal. No opportunity was to be given to representatives of workmen to debate the questions of contract labour. If the Government had been as anxious to press forward the Workmen's Compensation Act he would have supported them. That measure was mentioned in both last and this year's King's speeches, but no opportunity was to be given to pass the Bill, although support was accorded on all sides to the Home Secretary when he introduced it. Then the Chief Secretary for Ireland had been brought face to face with the problem of the unemployed and had realised that something must be done, but no step was to be taken to put the right hon. Gentleman's good intentions into law this year. He should do his best with the other Labour Members to fight against the proposals of the Government in this matter.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham) desired to offer his sincere congratulations to the Prime Minister, first, upon the general tone and temper of the debate, and in the second place because it had been one of the best days in the whole session for the right hon. Gentleman, who usually regarded Parliamentary business as being very dull. The right hon. Gentleman looked upon the hours spent in the House as a spell upon the Parliamentary treadmill, and as part of the purchase price of office and power. There was one exception to the right hon. Gentleman's dislike to the House of Commons, and that was on an occasion when a guillotine Resolution had to be introduced. Supply was tedious, votes of censure were annoying, Irish debates the right hon. Gentleman had heard so often before; he detested reference to a matter before a Judicial Committee, and he could not bear to hear anything relating to the fiscal question, but only let some proposal for restricting debate be put before the House, and the right hon. Gentleman was perfectly delighted. He was to be found in his place from the beginning to the end of the debate, which he took under his own especial charge, and there was no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman that day had been thoroughly pleased with the work upon which he had been engaged, and with the general tenour and course of the debate.

He (Mr. Churchill) would like to point out that progress under the Bill would have been quicker if it had been better drafted. They had discovered some palpable absurdities, such as the question of the exclusion of cabin passengers from the operation of the Bill, and the taking of immigrants into this country who had been rejected by America. There were in this Bill gross flaws, to discover which it did not require any factious or partisan spirit. Delay had also been caused by the statistics brought forward in support of the Bill. He would like to impress upon the Prime Minister that there was a real opposition to this Bill in the country, and particularly so in that part of the country represented by the Prime Minister. There was a real and earnest opposition in the constituency of Manchester. A meeting was held there the other day, presided over by a Conservative candidate, and supported by a number of Conservative Members, at which Amendments to the Bill were advocated, and it was particularly significant that although the meeting was not unfavourable to the general idea of keeping out aliens, it was of opinion that this Bill might be improved. In face of the opposition displayed, which was clearly above partisanship, it was a little unseemly that rumours had been rife in the Press and the lobby that at the very earliest moment the Government would impose the guillotine proposals.

It had been pointed out that the Prime Minister was responsible for the difficulty in which the House found itself. He would not attempt to elaborate the point, because it had been clearly put before them, but, when they considered how frequently the guillotine was now resorted to, no one could help asking how it was that in sessions which were exceptionally light in a legislative programme it was always necessary to fall back on these very drastic measures. The First Lord of the Treasury had changed his opinion very much on the subject of the closure since 1883. The right hon. Gentleman was then one of the most strenuous opponents to it. He remembered ten years ago listening to a speech by the right hon. Gentleman, in which he denounced the iniquity of the closure, but now he had overcome all those scruples. He (Mr. Churchill) was far from saying that the conclusion was altogether a wrong one. He was in agreement with the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs, who had advocated the adoption of a time-table on all Bills, to be regulated by a Committee sitting upstairs. That plan would be brought very much nearer by the action of the Prime Minister that day. He did not think they would lose very much by the application of this guillotine proposal. The Bill would go to the country in the shape of an unworkable measure and there were not wanting signs of a transference of power. The life of this Government was drawing to a close. This unworkable Bill would have to be administered by another Government, and the procedure which had been attacked——

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

ALIENS BILL (PROCEDURE).

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Amendment to Question [5th July], "That the proceedings in Committee and on Report of the Aliens Bill, including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto, shall, unless previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion at the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned:—

(*a*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining part of Clause 1, and Clauses 2 and 3, and on the Committee stage of the financial Resolution, shall be brought to a conclusion on Monday, the 10th of July.

(*b*) The proceedings on the Report stage of the financial Resolution, and in Committee on Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Afternoon Sitting on Tuesday, the 11th of July.

(*c*) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining Clauses of the Bill, on any new Clauses or Schedules, and any other proceedings necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Evening Sitting on Tuesday, the 11th of July.

(*d*) The consideration of the Report of the Bill shall be appointed for Monday, the 17th of July, and shall be brought to a conclusion on that day.

(*e*) At 11 p.m. on Monday, the 10th of July, and at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th of July, and at 12 midnight on Tuesday, the 11th of July, and at 11 p.m. on Monday, the 17th of July, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the business allotted to the day or sitting.

(*f*) In the case of Government Amendments, or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be.

The Third Reading of the Bill shall be put down for the Evening Sitting on Wednesday, the 19th of July, and at 12 midnight on that day the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill.

The proceedings to which this Order relates shall not be interrupted except at the Afternoon Sitting at 7.30 p.m. on the 10th and 17th of July, under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

After the passing of this Order, on any day or at any Sitting to which Business is allotted under this Order, no dilatory Motion on the Bill or Resolution, and no Motion to postpone a Clause of the Bill, shall be received unless moved by a Minister in charge of the Bill, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith.

No Motion under Standing Order 10 shall be received on the 10th, 11th, 17th, or 19th July, and no opposed Private Business shall be set down at the Evening Sitting for consideration on those days.

If Progress be reported, the Chairman shall put this Order in force in any subsequent sitting of the Committee."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Which Amendment was—

"In line 1, to leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, and insert the words 'having regard to the small amount of time already devoted to the consideration of the Aliens Bill in Committee, and the failure of the Government to press forward the measure at an earlier period of the session, this House declines to assent to any proposal having as its object the prevention of legitimate discussion on matters vitally affecting the liberty of the subject.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'the,' in line 1, stand part of the Question."

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he was quite unable to understand the meaning of the constant attacks made upon the Prime Minister on account of his alleged absence from the debates in that Chamber. Students of history would remember that when Lord North occupied the position of his right hon. friend the Prime Minister he also was constantly subjected to these attacks, but what was his reply when accused of being asleep during the course of a debate? Lord North said, "Asleep! I only wish to God I was." His right hon. friend was too polite to go to sleep, and had to absent himself on business connected with the nation, and that was the only reason why he absented himself from the House. He saw no reason why the Prime Minister should be expected to be in his place to listen to such frequent and frivolous attacks as those of the hon. Member for Oldham. Neither Mr. Gladstone, during the Home Rule Bill, nor Sir William Harcourt, during his Budget Bill, was present during the whole of the discussions on those measures. In point of fact, Sir William Harcourt on more than one occasion told him that he was obliged to go out sometimes because flesh and blood could stand it no longer.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne) asked whether the hon. Member was in order.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Oldham made an animated attack on the Prime Minister for his absence; and the hon. and gallant Member for Essex has constituted himself the Prime Minister's defender. I think he ought to be allowed to make his defence.

SIR CARNE RASCH said that the only remedy for the waste of time was to curb the exuberance of verbosity on both sides of the House. Every other Legislative Assembly and place of business had a time limit. Why should not this House have one? Also the House had adopted the principle on more than one occasion, but had never allowed a measure providing for a time limit to pass into law.

*MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said that he had been charged by the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean with having at the beginning of the session announced that the Government intended to make early use of the guillotine. That statement was without foundation. He had never had any communication with the Prime Minister on the subject, and he never said anything like the words attributed to him. He did express the hope that the Government would use all the machinery in their power to pass the Bill; and he rejoiced that that course had been adopted. He asserted that the Bill was widely supported by the public, as revealed in resolutions passed at public meetings, and especially in the East End of London, urging the Government to produce and carry a measure on the lines of that which was now before the House, resolutions which were supported, he might add, by many supporters of the Party opposite. He traversed the statement that insufficient time had been allotted for the discussion of this Bill. Clause 1 was the only controversial clause. With regard to the rest of the Bill there was practical unanimity. If the suggestion of the hon. Member for Carnarvon were adopted, and the amount of time to be allotted to each Bill were to be decided by a Committee, would such Committee have given more than four days to the discussion of Clause 1? If so the proposal would not result in economising the time of the House He hoped the Government would not be alarmed by what was said by hon. Members opposite as to the feeling of the average man in the country with regard to the procedure that was now being taken. His belief was that the average man did not care twopence about the procedure of the House. Rather he looked with amazement on the rules of procedure, the extraordinary manner in which business was conducted, and on the outrageous waste of time that took place in discussing weekly Motions for adjournment and votes of censure, and goodness knew what besides, which resulted in matters of importance not being discussed at all. The country would rejoice that the closure had been enforced, and that the Government had determined to pass the Aliens Bill into law as quickly as possible.

Mr. DALZIEL rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'the' in line 1, stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 146; Noes, 107. (Division List No. 242.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J.(Manc'r
Balfour, Rt HnGeraldW(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Campbell, JHM(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edward Feethham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickson, Chas. Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, RtHn. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Rt. Hn Ailwyn Edw.
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R B(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. JE(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Goschen, Hn. GeorgeJoachim
Greene,Sir E W(B'rySEdm'nds
Hambro, Chas. Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley

Sir Carne Rasch.

Heath, Sir Jas. (StaffordsNW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hozier, Hn. James HenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, HnH.L.W.(Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn Walter(Bristol,S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, RtHn. Chas Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H.(Renfrew
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, H.C(North'mb.Tyneside
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, RtHn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E (Chichester)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, ColSirC.E.H.(Sheffield
Walrond, Rt.Hn Sir Wm. H.
Welby, Sir Chas. G.E.(Notts.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Austin, Sir John
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway)
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Chas. Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Mooney, John J.
Muldoon, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Reid Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shackleton, David James
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spencer, Rt Hn C R(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh. N.)

Tellers for the Noes.—Mr. Dalziel and Mr. John Wilson (Durham).

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he wished to move an Amendment and a consequential Amendment which would make the first paragraph read: "That the proceedings in Committee and on the Report of the Aliens Bill shall be set down as the first Order of the day." He thought that that would secure the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule and enable the House to revert to the old-fashioned dinner hour, which would be of considerable advantage.

*MR. SPEAKER said that if that was the object of the hon. Member he thought it would be clearly outside the realm of relevancy.

MR. WHITLEY asked if it would be in order to move the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule in the Standing Orders in order to devote more time to a particular Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER said that a Motion to suspend the twelve o'clock rule must be made under the Standing Orders of the House. What the hon. Member wanted to do by a side wind was to make an entire divergence from the Standing Orders of the House.

MR. WHITLEY said he accepted Mr. Speaker's ruling on that point, and would raise the question in another form.

MR. DALZIEL moved the Amendment standing in his name, viz., in lines 1 and 2 to leave out "and on Report." The effect of this Amendment, he said, would be that the time devoted to the Report stage would not be included in the compartments and that the House would have more time to discuss the various matters which must come up on the Report stage. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean had shown most conclusively that there would not be adequate time to consider the question of political refugees and the victims of religious persecutions. The only two occasions on which the House could review the decisions of the Committee were on the Report stage and the Third Reading. The Government had taken an evening sitting for the Third Reading of the most important Bill of the session. That was a complete farce, and, therefore, they were bound to fall back on the demand to have more time on the Report stage. If the Government had made up their mind to shut their ears to all criticism it was just as well that the House should know it and proceed accordingly. He appealed to the Prime Minister, who knew that sometimes the Government gained by showing some conciliation, to give hon. Members additional time for the consideration of the most vital points of the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman might say that, so far as he could see, the Committee would have an opportunity of considering all these points, but that it was not in the hands of any particular individual or of the Prime Minister himself. He besought the right hon. Gentleman to view this Amendment with favour. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1 to leave out the words 'and on Report.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and on Report' stand part of the Question."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought the hon. Gentleman must, if he reflected on the matter, see that the adoption of his Amendment would render nugatory the whole arrangements the Government had made to pass this Bill in the period mentioned in the Resolution. It was therefore impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said that there were no fewer than twenty Amendments to the Bill standing on the Paper in the name of the Home Secretary. That was to say that the Bill when it passed through Committee would be in quite a different form from that which it now was. In these circumstances was it reasonable, before they had the amended Bill in print before them, to tie the hands of the House as to the action they might take on Report or as to the particular time which should be given to Report? He would also point out that it would be perfectly open to the Prime Minister, after the Bill had passed through Committee, to bring in a similar Resolution, which he could pass in half an hour if he treated the Opposition in a conciliatory spirit. He had no doubt that the House would take the Report stage reasonably if that concession were made; but it was treating the House with contempt to ask them to discuss a Bill which was not before them.

MR. WHITLEY said he did hope that the right hon. Gentleman would exclude the Report stage from his Resolution, or, in some other way, give more time than was now set down for the discussion of the vital points in the Bill. He would give one illustration which, unless they had the opportunity they desired, showed the kind of thing that would happen. He had brought up a question relating to one of his own constituents, a workman who desired to return to this country from the United States, but who would be excluded by the Bill as it stood. It was admitted by those in charge of the Bill that that was a perfectly just cause of complaint, and that it had not occurred to those who drafted the Bill. The Attorney-General had promised to meet that case, and also the case of the Irish-Americans, and on that promise being made they had withdrawn their Amendment. But in the course of the day the Attorney-General had given notice of an Amendment which was hopelessly unsatisfactory, and there would be nothing to prevent a British-born subject being treated as an alien, or even as an undesirable alien. Unless they had more time allowed to deal with the Report stage they would not be able to deal with the promise of the Attorney-General, and they would be obliged to accept whatever words he put down on the Paper. Personally, he should not be sorry, because every case which arose in his constituency would be a valuable asset, and he was sure it would be found to be the same all over the country. Two days in Committee was absolutely inadequate, and there was practically to be no Report stage at all. He warned the Prime Minister that if he forced the Bill through in this way he would be sorry in the future for having treated legislation in this slipshod fashion.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) reminded the House that in response to an appeal made to him by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford the Attorney-General consented to put in words which would meet the Irish case. Certainly the Report stage would be the place to make any alterations of proposals which would not have the effect desired. He did not think the framers of this Bill could have had the Irish case in mind at all.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not now discussing the Amendment.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The case which I promised to provide for was the Irishman who had become an American citizen and wished to visit Ireland.

MR. FLYNN said that if they were not satisfied with the words put down by the Attorney-General, then their only chance of altering them would be on the Report stage.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said that the whole case raised by them on a previous occasion was that these Irishmen, who were naturalised Americans, should not be interfered with by this Bill in case they wished to return to their own country. The financial Resolution might take up the whole day. The Government had admitted that they had not considered this point.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: But we have considered it.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Then no provision has been made for it. Were they to run the risk of these people being interfered with? When a clear grievance was pointed out he thought they ought to be afforded time to discuss it.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I do not think that this point is relevant to the Amendment, because it relates to a British subject who has gone to another country and then returns to his own country to remain. The point the other day was that of an Irishman who had become an American citizen and wished to visit Ireland, and I have now suggested words to meet that case.

MR. FLYNN: And the words you have submitted are quite unacceptable.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said that the words which had been put down would not meet more than 5 per cent. of the Irish cases.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is proceeding to discuss a future Amendment, he must confine his remarks to the Amendment before the House.

MR. FLAVIN said that quite 95 per cent. of the Irishmen who went abroad became citizens of the country to which they went, and according to this Bill they would be treated as aliens. That was what he wished to protest against, and they would use every means in their power on the Report stage to protect their own people from such treatment.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that the Attorney-General gave them a distinct pledge during the Committee stage that words would be introduced on the Report stage to meet the Irish case.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that what he stated was that he would see whether words could be introduced, without prejudice to the general principle of the Bill, to meet the particular case quoted, which was the case of an Irishman going to America, becoming naturalised there, and then returning to Ireland on a visit.

*MR. SPEAKER: I must again point out that this point is out of order, and I really think that it must close now.

MR. POWER said he merely wished to point out that if they did not have an opportunity of discussing the words which would be submitted, the pledge which the Attorney-General had given to them would be no use at all. The words which were now submitted were most unsatisfactory.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.) said the object of this Amendment was that they should be allowed more time for the Report stage. The Attorney-General had given them a promise that he would bring up words which would meet the case of the Irishman who had gone to America and become naturalised and who wanted to return to his native country and end his days in Ireland. The words suggested would not meet this case, and under the Bill these Irishmen would be treated as undesirable aliens.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.) said that any person under sixteen years of age going to America was entitled to become a citizen, and the majority of those who went from Ireland to America were under sixteen, and, consequently, they became citizens of the United States.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is discussing another Amendment.

MR. LUNDON said that all he wished to point out was that a very small part of the men affected by this Bill would be those who came home to see their friends in Ireland.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 174; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 243.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arnold-Forster, Rt HnHughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn A. J.(Manch'r.)
Balfour, Rt. HnGeraldW(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bnownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H M(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T.L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph

Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, RtHn. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, RtHnAilwynEdward
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B(Inv’rn’ssB’ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J.E(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T’rH’mlets
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir EW(B’rySEdm’nds
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq of(L’nd’nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, Sir James(StaffordsNW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford,W
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F(Sheffield, Brightside
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hozier, Hn. JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hn. Col.W
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm’th)
Lawson, Hn. H L W (MileEnd)
Lee, Arthur H (HantsFareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn.Walter(Bristol S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsm’th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, RichardBiddulph
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt Hn Sir Fredk G.
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
O’Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt.Hn.Chas. Thomson.
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H(Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, H C(North’mbTyneside
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stewart, Sir MarkJM‘Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col Sir CEH(Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. HnSir WilliamH.
Welby, Lt.-ColACE(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas.G.E(Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Austin, Sir John
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, SydneyCharles(Poplar
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan(Cardigan
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, NE.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P(Cavan,W

Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spencer, Rt. Hn CR(Northants
Stanhope, Hn. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomas, JA(Glamorgan,Gower
Tomkinson, James
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,Arthur Walters(NDorset
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Flynn and Mr. T. W. Russell.

*MR. EMMOTT, in moving to withdraw proceedings on the financial Resolution from the operation of the Motion, contended that the time allotted to the various compartments was far too short for the adequate discussion of the clauses concerned, and that to require in addition the financial Resolution to be discussed, or passed without discussion, was a demand which ought not to be made upon the House. The question of expense was one of considerable importance, about which no information whatever had been given. Last year, although it was admitted that representations had been made to the Treasury on the point, the House were not informed what amount of money was asked for. It would be scandalous if the House were again treated in that way without being allowed adequate time for the discussion of the financial aspect of the Bill. He begged to move.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does any hon. Member second ?

MR. CHURCHILL formally seconded by raising his hat.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 2, to leave out the words 'including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto.'"—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. WHITLEY, on a point of order, asked whether it was necessary for such an Amendment to be seconded, and pointed out that the mover of the previous Amendment was not called upon for a seconder.

*MR. SPEAKER: All Amendments require to be seconded.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the Amendment was an impossible one as it would stultify what the Committee had already passed. In fact, he would have thought it was on the verge of being out of order. It was clearly impossible to take Clause 4 unless the money Resolution had been passed, and to put that Resolution outside the Order would be practically to make the whole rule unworkable. That was a technical but a conclusive answer to the Amendment. Moreover, the inclusion of the money Resolution was a part of the general scheme, but it was not an important part, and if he agreed to exempt anything from the rule it certainly would not be that which was more in the nature of a formal Resolution than many of the questions that would arise on the Bill.

Mr. WHITLEY said the right hon. Gentleman had taken an extremely narrow technical ground, and all it amounted to was that a day should be given for the passage of the financial Resolution between the days fixed for the first and second compartments of the guillotine. It was evidently the intention of the Prime Minister that that Resolution should be passed in Committee and on Report without there being any opportunity afforded for pressing the Department to disclose their estimate of the cost of the working of the Bill. That was an important matter, as they did not know whether the cost would be £10,000 or £100,000. The probability was that the financial Resolution would never be discussed at all.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It comes first.

Mr. WHITLEY pointed out that that was only on Report, which meant that it would be impossible to cross-examine the Home Secretary on the matter. He submitted that it was both unusual and unfair to include both stages of a financial Resolution in the compartments of a guillotine Motion.

Mr. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry) said that one of the arguments against the Bill was that it would cost a great deal of money for which the country would get very little in return. Under the Resolution there would be practically no opportunity of discussing the financial question in Committee, as in the first compartment it was preceded by Clauses 1, 2, and 3. He hoped, therefore, that on the Report stage the Prime Minister would grant some relaxation to meet the circumstances of the case.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) hoped the Prime Minister would not prove obdurate in this matter. Much of the opposition to the Bill of last year was due to the absence of any information as to the cost of the scheme, and this year, again, no estimate was forthcoming. Before the financial Resolution was dealt with the House ought to be told for what amount an estimate had been sent in to the Treasury as to the cost of the present scheme. This important matter had been thrown with four important clauses into one compartment, so that adequate discussion was impossible. He submitted that to include such a Resolution with clauses in one compartment was entirely unprecedented, and only another evidence of the slackness with which financial burdens were thrown upon the country.

Mr. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) asked whether at some period of the discussion the Prime Minister would inform the House as to the probable cost of putting the Bill into operation.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It will be done when the Resolution comes up.

Mr. WHITLEY: But it will not come up; it will be guillotined.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 194; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 244.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arnold-Forster, RtHnHugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manc'r
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Lt-Col.HF(Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, JHM(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt.Hn.Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas

Fellowes,RtHn.AilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin& Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj.Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir EW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath,Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N. W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, JF (Sheffield,Brightside)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hn. Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lee, ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick,N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, ReginaldJ(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, RtHn.SirH.E(Wigt'n
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt.Hn. Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,Sir H.(Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,East
Smith, HC(North'mbTyneside)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, RtHn J.G.(Oxf'dUniv)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirCEH.(Sheffield
Walker, Col. Wm. Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn SirWilliam H.
Welby, Lt-Col. ACE.(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. B. E. (Notts.
Whiteley, H(Ashton und Lyne
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, RtHn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Chas. (Poplar)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T.(Glamorgan
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, RtHnHerbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt Lewis
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.

Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, C.E.H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H(Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, RtHnC.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hn. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomas, JA(Glamorgan,Gower
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(NDorset
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N

Tellers for the Noes.—Mr. Emmott and Mr. Churchill.

Mr. McKENNA moved an Amendment the object of which was, without altering the amount of time allowed by the Resolution for the completion of the discussion of the Bill, to throw it into one compartment only, leaving the House to use the allotted time as it pleased on any particular stage. He pointed out that there were still ninety-eight Amendments standing on the Paper in the names of fifteen hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial side and forty-six in the names of hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side. If hon. Gentlemen opposite had put down their Amendments seriously, they could not support the Resolution. The alternative was that they had put them down in order to give the Order Paper the appearance of a vast mass of business and to consume all the allotted time by the discussion of their own Amendments. There was no possibility, therefore, of the reasonable discussion of the Bill. Probably they would read to-morrow in the Unionist Press that the Government had become tired of the dilatory tactics of the Opposition, although two-thirds of the Amendments stood in the names of hon. Gentlemen opposite.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE seconded.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to leave out all the words after the word 'thereto,' and add the words, 'shall be deemed to have been concluded, and the Question on the Third Reading of the Bill shall be put, and the Bill shall be passed in such form as, subject to Amendments, the Secretary of State introduced the Bill, as soon as the proceedings, if not previously disposed of, have been under discussion during three Afternoon Sittings and four Evening Sittings.' "—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'shall' stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he was greatly puzzled to know what the exact effect of this Amendment would be. If he rightly understood the hon. Member he proposed practically to abolish both the Report stage and the Third Reading. It seemed to him to be such a great innovation that he should like first of all to hear from Mr. Speaker whether it was in order to discuss it as a serious proposition.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The Amendment does not appear on the Paper in the form in which it is now proposed, and it has been rather sprung upon me. I do not think it would be possible to over-rule the common practice of Parliament.

Mr. McKENNA said the wording of his Amendment might not be particularly happy, but all he asked for was that the Report stage should be taken without Question put, and the Third Reading in the same way.

Mr. LOUGH said it was only in the course of his argument that the hon. Member for Monmouth said that the two stages might be omitted.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that even supposing that the ninety-eight Amendments standing in the names of hon. Members on his side of the House were put down with the view of preventing discussion—a fantastic hypothesis—the plan which the hon. Member opposite proposed to counteract this object would be inefficacious, because it was quite evident that but half the ingenuity which the hon. Member suspected in the supporters of the Government would be sufficient, if exercised in speaking to the other Amendments on the Paper, to keep the discussion going for three days and a half, and, therefore, nothing would be gained by hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House. If the danger was not imaginary, the remedy proposed would have no effect whatever in dealing with the evil sought to be remedied.

Mr. CHURCHILL said he was in favour of the principle of the time-table being applied to Bill, but he considered that the application of the guillotine closure to this particular Bill was not justified by the circumstances of the session, the character of the measure, or the discussions which had already taken place upon it. If the principle of the time-table was to be applied to Bills, he submitted that it was of the essence of such a scheme that the time should be apportioned by some non-partisan Committee or body, and not by the Prime Minister of the day. The Prime Minister of the day was a partisan pure and simple. He did not in any sense of the word occupy an impartial position in regard to the course of business in the House. No one had more clearly identified himself with one particular Party and had more definitely associated himself with the mere political aspects of his office than the present Prime Minister. If they were discussing a time-table which had been framed by some non-partisan body, it would be very difficult for hon. Members to vote against it, but having regard to the fact that the Resolution proposed a purely partisan allocation of time, and having regard to the statement of his hon. friend that that allocation of time had the appearance of favouring a great number of Amendments put down by hon. Members on the other side of the House—though he did not for a moment suggest that the right hon. Gentleman had been actuated by motives unduly favouring these Amendments—he was inclined to prefer the proposal that the time to be allowed for discussion should not be definitely allocated by the Government. Under those circumstances he would vote for the Amendment. The Prime Minister had referred to the Amendment of his hon. friend as one which appeared to introduce some great innovation and a departure from the common usage of Parliament. Considering that the right hon. Gentleman was the greatest precedent maker, considering that he was the grand inventor of instruments of Parliamentary torture and suppression, considering that the curtailment of Parliamentary liberties which had marked the last ten years would go down to history associated with his name, his hardihood in talking about Parliamentary innovation was a thing of which his supporters might approve, but to which the country would not assent.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said he was not quite sure whether his hon. friend intended to proceed to a division, but he was bound to say that, although he recognised the excellence of his intentions, the Amendment, if carried out, was one which might prove dangerous to discussion in the House of Commons. His hon. friend's proposal was that the whole of the time which the Prime Minister was willing to give for the consideration of the Bill should be devoted to the Committee stage, and that the Report stage and the Third Reading stage should be cut out. He was not sure whether such a proceeding would be constitutional, but, whether it was or not, he considered it was absolutely necessary that they should have both those stages on any Bill presented to the House. The House should consider most carefully before it consented to any such Amendment. He suggested that his hon. friend should not press the Amendment.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said he understood that under the new rules it was not competent to move on the Report stage an Amendment which had not been moved in Committee. Would it be competent for any hon. Member to move on the Report stage an Amendment which had not been reached in Committee owing to the operation of the guillotine? Was he not right in his first thesis?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

MR. LOUGH said the Resolution proposed by the Prime Minister would strictly limit the time available for the discussion of some of the most important parts of the Bill. The hon. Member for the West Derby Division of Liverpool had argued that already in the discussions on the Bill they had raised many of the most important points. He was unable to agree with the hon. Member. If they had three more days free from any compulsion they might manage to discuss most of the important points. Let them have three and a-half days for the discussion of the Bill, to be used as they liked, instead of chopping them up into pieces as the Resolution proposed.

MR. RUNCIMAN said he could not support his hon. friend's Amendment. It was necessary to divide the time into portions, and if the Amendment were adopted probably the House would not reach the financial Resolution to which much importance was attached. His hon. friend had referred to the Machiavellian schemes of hon. Members on the other side of the House who had Amendments on the Paper. He had only to call attention to the names of the Gentlemen to show how far wrong that assertion was. The names included those of the Members for Thanet, Greenwich, the West Derby Division of Liverpool, Hull, Stretford, Bethnal Green, and Shoreditch, and he was sure that they would not associate themselves with a Machiavellian scheme.

MR. McKENNA asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WHITLEY moved an Amendment substituting for the proposal of the guillotine by compartments the old-fashioned remedy of continuing the sitting of the House after midnight. Hon. Members on his side of the House were prepared to give up something of their comfort and rest in order to give adequate consideration to this measure. He thought it was a fair offer to make to the First Lord of the Treasury in order that important points in the Bill might not be entirely left without consideration. In the small hours of the morning long speeches were not the rule, and they would be able to devote themselves then to points which might seem of minor importance but which were exactly the points on which the Bill was going to break down in working if passed without Amendment. During the discussions which had already taken place in Committee they had been told over and over again that they must raise certain points on Clause 5 or Clause 8, but if the Motion was passed these clauses would come up on days when Members were marching through the division lobbies. He begged to move.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) seconded the Amendment. He did so because it offered an alternative to the guillotine proposal of the Prime Minister. He understood the right hon. Gentleman in moving the Resolution to say that it might be of advantage in some instances if Party spirit were absent from the debates in the House. He thought the right hon. Gentleman would recognise that it was not in any Party spirit that his proposal had been discussed that day. On his side of the House they thought that more time should be allowed for the discussion of the Aliens Bill, and they appealed to the Prime Minister to give more time than was proposed. The use of force did not facilitate business in this House or anywhere else. The right hon. Gentleman had that day confessed that legislation was practically impossible even under the new rules which he had devised. The use of the closure in a drastic way did not facilitate legislation and it did not increase the authority of legislation in the country when carried. The Prime Minister had pleaded that it was the only way by which business could be carried through, but from 1869 to 1874 Mr. Gladstone carried through a series of measures of importance, and passed in the course of that five years more legislation dealing with great principles and touching important interests than had been carried during the last twenty-five years by the use of the closure. What had the closure done? It was utilised in the cases of the Home Rule Bill and the Evicted Tenants Bill, and what had become of them? The Education Bill was closured and the whole country was in revolt against it. There were 32,000 cases of passive resisters.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must address himself more to the Question before the House.

*MR. LEIF JONES hoped it would be in order to argue that if the Prime Minister would use methods of persuasion they would be just as effectual in saving time and the measures passed would have more weight in the country. During this session they had had a two days discussion on the Resolution to guillotine the debate on Supply, and he put it to the Prime Minister that if when he introduced that guillotine Resolution he had made at the beginning of the two days' debate the conciliatory speech which he made at the end of the second day he would have got his Supply through without the necessity for any such Resolution. The Prime Minister had admitted that they had a right to discuss the Bill, and, if they had a right to discuss it, surely it was wrong to deprive them of that right. If the twelve o'clock rule were suspended they could discuss the important Amendments and questions raised by the Bill, and if there was not then sufficient time why should they adjourn on August 11th? By adjourning on August 18th there would be ample time provided for discussion. He would also suggest that they might carry over legislation from session to session.

*MR SPEAKER: Order, order! That has no reference to the Amendment before the House.

*MR. LEIF JONES said he only desired to find time for the legislation that the Prime Minister said he had no time for. He was pleading in all seriousness for further time in which to discuss a measure which he regarded as of the utmost importance and which raised questions which went to the very foundation of our Constitution and history. If they were to close the door against people coming and going freely—which had been one of our greatest glories in the past and which was a freedom which no other country possessed—they should not do it light-heartedly, but only after full consideration and in order to give effect to the will of the House, and of the country.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to leave out all the words after the word 'shall' and insert the words 'if under consideration at Twelve o'clock not be interrupted under Standing Order "Sittings of the House."' "—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the end of line 4, stand part of the Question."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he would not follow the mover and seconder of the Amendment into the wide field of discussion, as he had already dealt with the question of all-night sittings or late sittings. Such a course would not meet with favour in any part of the House, nor would it conduce to wise legislation. It was absolutely inconsistent with the scheme that had been laid down. He would simply say that the whole essence of this Resolution was that they should have the power to closure by compartments, whether that course was right or wrong. At all events that was too late an hour to discuss something which was not an Amendment but an alternative to that proposal.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said the Prime Minister's statement appeared to amount to this, that for the consideration of most important and complex matters only three and a-half days were to be allowed, and seeing that the guillotine was to fall at half-past six at a morning sitting and eleven at the evening sitting it followed that all they would have for the discussion of the whole Bill was five hours and a half per day for three days and one evening sitting. No one could contend that it was not the duty of the House to adequately and sufficiently discuss every clause of a Bill which involved most important and fundamental changes in the principle of the admission of aliens from abroad into this country. Surely this was an occasion when they had a right to demand that adequate opportunity should be given for a proper discussion of every clause in the Bill. At any rate it was right that the country should know that in this important question the whole of the responsibility of refusing that right of freedom of discussion which the House of Commons ought to enjoy rested upon the Prime Minister. Whether his docile followers supported him or not, on this occasion the discredit would rest upon his shoulders and the shoulders of the Government, and the measure, if forced through by those means, would not attain that permanency in the legislative enactments of the country which it would otherwise attain. Why was it necessary for the House of Commons to rise on August 11th or 12th? It was high time that the nation should know that the convenience of Members on the Government side of the House and the interests of grouse-shooting were regarded as paramount and above the legislative needs of the nation, and know that, in addition to the inefficient legislative character——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is making a Second Reading speech on the Resolution.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON concluded by saying that he considered the rights of the House to full freedom of debate and discussion on an important measure proposed by the Government had been abrogated by the Prime Minister.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) thought the Prime Minister did not recognise what his hon. friend wished to obtain by the Amendment. He had been listening to the debate and the thing that struck him was the absence of discussion of one particular alternative to the proposals of the Government—the discretionary closure by the Prime Minister. The Amendment would permit that to be done. It would require a certain amount of energy to be displayed by the supporters of the Government, and it might be necessary for them to stay occasionally until two o'clock in the morning. If there was any unnecessary obstruction the right hon. Gentleman could use his discretion to apply the closure in the ordinary way. He could not help feeling that that way was a far better method to adopt than to closure the Bill by compartments. Under certain circumstances he agreed with the policy of closure by compartments, but in a Bill of this kind, where there remained fifteen important points to be discussed, that could not be regarded as a proper policy, and if the Prime Minister were to use his discretion to closure at the right moment, a number of unimportant Amendments, very many of which had been put down by Members on the Government side, would be struck out, and the House would have a real chance to discuss those questions it wanted to debate. The right hon. Gentleman had admitted that there was no real obstruction to the Bill. The truth was that he dared not accept this Amendment because he had no sufficient following on his own side in favour of the Bill, which had been discovered to be of very little use as an electoral Bill. Last Monday there was a demonstration of Labour Members against the Bill, and in the country a "rot" was setting in among the Tory Party. The hon. Member for Oldham had given them an instance of a meeting in Manchester——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is straying away from the Amendment.

MR. TREVELYAN said the reason why the Prime Minister dared not accept the Amendment was because he could not depend upon the energy of his followers in attending at the House while the Bill was discussed.

MR. CHURCHILL said the Amendment raised the very wide and important issue of whether it would not be much better not to have a fixed hour for the termination of the debate than to fall back upon the drastic methods of a time-table. He confessed that he was in favour of a time-table if it was a scientific, fair, logical, and reasonable time-table. But if they were not to have a time-table with those characteristics there was a great deal to be said for the process of exhaustion which attended late sittings. Naturally the Prime Minister, who was burdened with too much work, and had to reconcile his divergent forces, objected to late sittings, and he was quite ready to admit that it would be a great disadvantage to the country for the right hon. Gentleman to be kept up very late night after night. The debate on this Bill would be of a very different character to the debate of the other night, which was of the nature of a protest against the improper treatment received by the House at the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. There were many Amendments to be considered, and many people in the country who followed the progress of the Bill with the greatest interest. After all, what had the Government to lose by allowing the debate to run on into the night? They would get the session ended on any day they chose and yet could give more discussion on urgent and vital points of the Bill. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to consent, whatever might be the disadvantage of an all-night sitting. To extend the hours of debate meant extending the number of days allocated for the discussion of the Bill.

*MR. WILLS (Dorsetshire, N.) supported the Amendment and urged upon the Prime Minister that it would conduce to a spirit of conciliation, and there were numerous points to be considered in which that spirit would be of enormous benefit to the country. There were two schools amongst the right hon. Gentleman's own followers who supported the Aliens Bill; one could be described as the Birmingham School and the other as that of the right hon. Gentleman. These schools themselves held different views as to the proper purpose of the Act. He had been asked to support the British Brothers League——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That has nothing to do with this Amendment.

*MR. WILLS thought if the twelve o'clock rule were to be suspended the debate could be carried on in a spirit of conciliation, but if the Amendment were not accepted the time of the House might be wasted in discussing unimportant Amendments, and the more important ones would be reached too late to allow of discussion. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would make some concession in this matter.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said the Prime Minister would probably find, if he cared anything at all about the House of Commons, that he was dealing with it in such a way as to lose his influence in the country. Students of history would find that the twelve o'clock rule gave rise to a great deal of obstruction in the House in the good old days. Mr. Disraeli on one occasion, when at three or four o'clock in the morning an adjournment of the debate was moved, said—

> "It is a very pleasant morning. Why go to our homes at this very early hour of the morning? You are destroying the usages of Parliament."

If they sat late the bores would get tired, the unimportant Amendments would disappear, and the House would apply itself to the really serious Amendments to the Bill. They should deal with this matter as if they were referred back to the old days, and they would then get through the Bill without difficulty. The Prime Minister did not care whether they discussed the important Amendments or not. The right hon. Gentleman wanted to have the legislation in his own hands, with the assistance of the hon.

Member for Peckham, and the silent assistance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; so that so far as this Bill was concerned the House of Commons must give the right hon. Gentleman that power. He did not believe in obstruction in this House, whether on this Bill or on any other; but he believed strongly in the efficacy of the House of Commons, and if they wanted to do real business they ought to sit at four o'clock and have no twelve o'clock rule, or sit at nine or ten o'clock in the morning, and finish their business in reasonable time. So far as this Motion was concerned, it would be better to adopt the good, old-fashioned rule. All that the Prime Minister wanted was to pass the Bill in its present form, and if he had the courage to carry out what he desired the right hon. Gentleman would completely closure the Bill, and allow his followers to go to the country and take a holiday. He believed the proposition of his hon. friend was the right course for the House to adopt.

Mr. DALZIEL said he would not have risen but for the speech just delivered by his hon. and learned friend. For his part, he thought it would be disastrous if they went back on the twelve o'clock rule. To suspend that rule made everything uncertain, and interfered with the progress of business. Sitting up late never could conduce to the efficient discharge of Parliamentary duties. But the Amendment raised the point whether it was better to support the compartment closure or to sit up after twelve o'clock. He thought the latter preferable to the proposal of the Prime Minister, because it was shown beyond doubt that the important matters in the Bill could then be discussed. He would vote for the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 190; Noes, 157. (Division List No. 245.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt.HnHughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John GeorgeAlexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt HnA. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour Capt. C.B(Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt.HnGeraldW(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Lt.-ColHF(Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J.H M(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. HnJA(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, SirHoratio D(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Chas. Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir WilliamHart
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Rt Hn Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, RtHnSirJ.(Manch'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,SirR. B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs.
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. EdwardAlgernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn J E(Elgin& Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T'rH'mlets
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords,N.W
Heaton, John Henniker
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J F(Sheffield,Brightside)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo T. Denbigh
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W(Mile End)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col Chas. W.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)

M‘Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E(Wigt’n
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N
Montagu, G (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm.Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. T.
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, Wm. Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, H C(North’mbTyneside
Smith, Rt HnJParker(Lanarks
Stanley, Hn. Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord(Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M‘Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn J G(Oxf’dUniv.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col SirCEH(Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt-Col A C E(Taunton)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton undLyne
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.
Allen, Charles P.
Austin, Sir John
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A.(Inverness-sh.
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw’sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt Hn Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, C.E.H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex(Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O’Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O’Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O’Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O’Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O’Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O’Dowd, John
O’Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O’Malley, William
O’Mara, James
O’Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.

Seely, MajJEB(Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn.CRNorthants
Stanhope, Hn. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel(Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan, Gower
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(NDorset
Wilson, HenryJ. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. J. H. Whitley and Mr. Samuel Evans.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said the object of the Amendment he was about to move was to withdraw Clause 3 from the first compartment, so that the discussion on Monday, July 10th should be confined to Clauses 1 and 2. There was a general agreement of opinion that Clause 3—the expulsion clause—should be added to the Statute-book if possible, but Clauses 1 and 2 raised matters of the utmost controversy. It might be said that if there was general agreement as to Clause 3 it did not matter where it was placed for discussion. That, however, was not the case. Although there was agreement as to the principle, numerous questions of drafting would require consideration, and therefore it was only reasonable to suggest that Clause 3 should come in with Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7. Clauses 1 and 2 embodied the most contentious parts of the Bill and their adequate discussion would require the whole of one day.

MR. EMMOTT, in seconding, said that for the discussion of Clauses 1 and 2 one day was wholly insufficient, and to include Clause 3 was really an insult to Members who desired to discuss the Bill reasonably. There were forty-two Amendments to Clauses 1 and 2 on the Paper in the names of supporters of the Government, and twenty in the names of Members of the Opposition, while of the forty-two no fewer than eleven were to be proposed by the Home Secretary himself, mainly in acknowledgment of the justice of the criticisms that had been made. It was perfectly clear that more time was required, and therefore he seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 6, to leave out Clauses 2 and 3, and insert Clause 2"—(*Major Seely*)—instead thereof.

Question proposed, "That the words posed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it must be a matter of opinion, incapable of demonstration, whether it was better that Clause 3 should be discussed on Monday or on Tuesday, it being understood that it must be discussed on one of those days. He adhered to the view that the allocation of time in the Resolution was better than that now proposed. As the mover of the Amendment had admitted, there was no serious difference of opinion with regard to the principle of Clause 3, though it did not follow that no drafting Amendments would be raised. He would be sorry, however, to crowd up Tuesday by adding to the clauses set down for that day. Probably the greater part of Monday would be devoted to finishing Clause 1, and, though Clause 2 was more important than Clause 3, he did not think Clauses 2 and 3 together were too much to fill up the remainder of the day. He thought, therefore, the House would be well advised to adhere to the Resolution.

MR. RUNCIMAN said the suggestion that Clause 3 was uncontroversial applied only to the principle. The machinery of the clause was extremely important, and could not be properly discussed unless the clause were taken up first on Tuesday. Already the discussion on Clause 1 had caused the Government to put down several important Amendments, and he believed the consideration of Clause 2, if sufficient time were allowed, would be equally productive. There was no intention of over-burdening Tuesday by the transfer of Clause 3 to that day, as a Motion would subsequently be submitted to relieve Tuesday of some of the work allocated to it.

Mr. CHURCHILL understood that the Prime Minister was not unwilling to leave the particular allocation of the clauses between these two days to the convenience of the House. Was he right in that?

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: No, you are wrong.

Mr. CHURCHILL said he understood the Prime Minister to say that although he thought the allocation in the Resolution was better than that proposed by the Amendment, he would not absolutely resist the alteration, if such an alteration were generally desired. In the absence of the Prime Minister it was impossible to ascertain whether the concession would be granted. A mere redistribution of the clauses between the two days, however, would not be sufficient. There would need to be some extension of time also.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE submitted that, considering the social and moral issues involved, the whole of Tuesday could advantageously be occupied by the discussion of Clause 3. He thought some assurance ought to be given to the House that the time available for the discussion of Clause 3 would be lengthened and not shortened by the proposal which was now before the House. Unless they got some very graceful concession from the Front Ministerial Bench they might find themselves in a worse plight than ever.

Mr. McKENNA pointed out that they had only got one day to discuss Clauses 1, 2, and 3. There were no less than forty-two Amendments to Clauses 1 and 2 standing in the names of hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial side of the House, and under those circumstances how was it possible that Clause 3 could be discussed? He was aware that Clause 3 was a part of the measure upon which the House was more or less agreed, but, nevertheless, it required some little discussion because it gave the power to the Secretary of State to make an expulsion order against an alien who had been in receipt of parochial relief within three months from the time at which proceedings for the certificate were commenced. That question could not be reached on the Report stage because the new clauses would be taken first, so that the only operative clause which was going to have any effect at all was really one which could not be discussed at all unless the Government would give more time and allow it to be put first on Tuesday.

***Mr. STUART SAMUEL** said he thought the allocation of the time which had been suggested would be of little value unless the Government would give them a little more time for the consideration of the clauses. When one considered the effect of the legitimate criticism which the proposals of the Government had received during the brief discussions which had already taken place, he was not at all surprised at their shyness in not giving further opportunities for discussion upon the remaining portions of the Bill. Nothing could be more deplorable than the statement made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade that 75,000——

***Mr. SPEAKER**: That matter is not relevant to the discussion of the Amendment now before the Chair.

***Mr. STUART SAMUEL** said it could not possibly make any difference to the Government where Clause 3 was discussed, but they had apparently made up their minds not to make the slightest concession.

Mr. DALZIEL said the question was whether they ought to take Clause 3 first on Tuesday. He thought they were entitled to ask at this stage what suggestions the Prime Minister had got to make upon this question of granting an extension of the time to be allowed for discussion. Could the right hon. Gentleman give them any hope that at any period he intended to make any concession at all. Now was the time to make any concession that he intended to offer, and if he did not intend to meet them he should let them know at once and then they could address themselves more in detail to some of the proposals which they had to put forward.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 172; Noes, 134. (Division List No. 246.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir Wm Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A J(Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt.HnGeraldW Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Lt-ColH F (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Butcher, John George
Campbell, JHM Dublin Univ.)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,RtHn J A(Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edw. Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North
Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies,Sir Horatio D(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt Hn Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, RtHn SirJ (Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R.B. (Inv'rn'ssB'gs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn J E (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,Maj. Evans (T'rH m'ts
Goschen, Hn. George (Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'donderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords.NW
Heaton, John Henniker
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J F(Sheffield,Brightside)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, RtHn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. Denbigh
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn H L W (Mile End.
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long,Rt Hn Walter (Bristol,S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Rt Hn. Alfred
Macdona John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Maxwell,RtHn Sir H E(Wigt'n
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, RtHn Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Sackville, Col. S. G. (Stopford
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith,H C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, RtHnJParker (Lanarks
Stanley, Hn. Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn J G Oxf'd (Univ
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col Sir C E H(Sheffield
Walker, Col William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E
Welby, Lt.-ColACE (Taunton)
Whiteley,H. (Ashton-und Lyne
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James

Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph Kilkenny, N.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt ECS(Andrw'sB'ghs
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,RtHn Herbert John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, VincentP.(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, HughAlex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shackleton, David James
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Sack, John Bamford
Spencer, Rt.HnCR(Northants)
Stanhope, Hn. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas,JA (Glamorgan,Gower
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(NDorset
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddrsfi'd)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Major Seely and Mr. Emmott.

Main Question again proposed.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he thought it was about time to come to some understanding as to the future course of the proceedings that night, and for that purpose he begged to move the adjournment of the debate. Hitherto the discussion had been conducted with perfect equanimity and good temper, but if it were to be carried beyond a certain point a different feeling might arise, and he thought the time had arrived for him to ask if the Government could not make some concession to the desires of his hon. friends and grant some extension of time for the consideration of the Report stage and the Third Reading of the Bill. Attempts had been made to induce the Government to make some alterations as to the clauses. Those attempts had proved futile, and he suggested that the Prime Minister ought to give additional time for the discussion on the later stages of the Bill.

Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that in order to prevent unnecessary friction he wished it to be thoroughly understood that although a certain time had been allotted to the discussion of the Bill there was no disposition on the part of the

Government to unnecessarily curtail the discussion. From the point of view of the general convenience of the House and the general desire of hon. Members he was willing to make a concession. The complaint was that the Report stage was too short, and that it was confined to one day, *i.e.*, Monday week. If hon. Members were prepared to accept the evening sitting of the following day and to make no objection to the Third Reading being taken at the conclusion of the Report stage, that course would add a material period for the discussion of the Bill. Having made that concession it must be understood that he had done all within his power, and, in fact, he had proposed more than some of his hon. friends would approve of. If the concession was taken in the spirit of the offer and would be the means of terminating the proceedings for that night, it was one which he was prepared to make, although he might be reproached by hon. Gentlemen at a later stage for making it, and he trusted that it would be received in the same spirit.

Mr. McKENNA was of opinion that this was a reasonable concession and ought to be accepted. The chief objection to the Government's proposals was that the time allotted to the Report stage was altogether too short. They were now offered the Tuesday evening and that might be regarded as satisfactory.

Mr. LOUGH agreed that the Prime Minister had met them in an admirable manner, but he thought that the Committee stage, to which only two days had been allotted, could not be adequately treated. He had an Amendment on the Paper that one day more should be allotted to the Committee stage. The difficulties seemed to be more in connection with the Committee than with the Report stage, and seeing that there were such a number of Amendments on the Paper by the members and supporters of the Government, it was really on the Committee stage that the extension of time should be given.

Mr. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether on the following day the Third Reading was to be taken at the evening sitting, or whether it was to be taken at both the morning and evening sitting?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he had suggested that there should be three additional hours given to the Report stage. The Third Reading would remain exactly as at present, and be taken on the Wednesday at the evening sitting.

Major SEELY said there seemed to be a general consensus of opinion that this was a reasonable arrangement. He did not wish to prolong the proceedings, but he regarded the Bill itself as intolerable, and, with the solitary exception of Clause 3, it ought not to have been discussed in the House. If he stood alone he would protest against the Bill in every way.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he did not intend to interfere to prevent this arrangement from being carried out; but he must be allowed to say that he considered the concession of three hours was ridiculous, and was practically of no value at all. If, however, the regular Opposition chose to consider it as a concession, he had no business to interfere.

Mr. DALZIEL said he wanted it to be clearly understood, so far as he was concerned, that he did not regard the concession of the right hon. Gentleman as satisfactory. Instead of three hours, they ought to have three days.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN asked leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that though he gathered there was not absolute unanimity, he understood that it was felt on all sides that it was better to come to the arrangement he had suggested. He had now to move two or three Amendments in the Resolution which would carry into effect the arrangement he had put before the House.

Amendment made.

Main Question, as amended, put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 113. (Division List No. 247.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,Rt.HnGeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Lt.-Col.H.F(Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt Hn JA(Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fellowes, Rt. Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, RtHnSirJ. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans(T'rH'mlets
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq of (L'donderry
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath,Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas. (StaffordsNW.
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T.(Denbigh)
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End
Lee, ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, RtHn Walter(Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Maxwell,Rt.Hn. SirHE(Wigt'n
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn.Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt.Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col Edward
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, S. Forde

Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, HC (North mb. Tyneside
Smith, Rt Hn J Parker(Lanarks
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord(Lancs)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirCEH(Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt-Col. A.C.E.(Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton undLyne
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R
Wortley, Rt. Hon C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William Cork, N. E.
Allen, Charles P.
Barry, E. J. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt EC(SAndrewsB'ghs
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Higham, John Sharp
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan, W.
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex.(Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Muldoon, John
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E (Waterford)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B.(Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Sheehy, David
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Spencer, Rt Hn CR(Northants.)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas, J. A(Glamorgan, Gower
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Hudd'rsf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

Ordered, That the proceedings in Committee and on Report of the Aliens Bill, including proceedings on the financial Resolution relating thereto, shall, unless previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion at the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned :—

(a) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining part of Clause 1, and Clauses 2 and 3, and on the Committee stage of the financial Resolution, shall be brought to a conclusion on Monday the 10th of July.

(b) The proceedings on the Report stage of the financial Resolution, and in Committee on Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Afternoon Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July.

(c) The proceedings in Committee on the remaining Clauses of the Bill, or any new Clauses or Schedules, and any other proceedings necessary to bring the Committee stage to a conclusion, shall be brought to a conclusion at the termination of the Evening Sitting on Tuesday the 11th of July.

(d) The consideration of the Report of the Bill shall be appointed for Monday the 17th of July, and for the Evening Sitting of the 18th of July, and shall be brought to a conclusion on that day.

(e) At 11 p.m. on Monday the 10th of July, and at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 12 midnight on Tuesday the 11th of July, and at 11 p.m. on Tuesday the 18th of July, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the Question or Questions on any Amendment or Motion already proposed from the Chair, and shall next proceed successively to put forthwith the Question on any Amendments moved by the Government of which notice has been given (but no other Amendments), and on every Question necessary to dispose of the business allotted to the day or sitting;

(f) In the case of Government Amendments, or of Government new Clauses or Schedules, he shall put only the Question that the Amendment be made or that the Clause or Schedule be added to the Bill, as the case may be.

The Third Reading of the Bill shall be put down for the Evening Sitting on Wednesday the 19th of July, and at Twelve midnight on that day the Speaker shall put forthwith any Question necessary to conclude the proceedings on that stage of the Bill.

The proceedings to which this Order relates shall not be interrupted except at the Afternoon Sitting at 7.30 p.m. on the 10th and 17th of July, under the provisions of any Standing Order relating to the Sittings of the House.

After the passing of this Order, on any day or at any Sitting to which Business is allotted under this Order, no dilatory Motion on the Bill or Resolution, and no Motion to postpone a Clause of the Bill, shall be received unless moved by a Minister in charge of the Bill, and the Question on any such Motion shall be put forthwith.

No Motion under Standing Order 10 shall be received on the 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, or 19th July, and no opposed Private Business shall be set down at the Evening Sitting for consideration on those days.

If Progress be reported, the Chairman shall put this Order in force in any subsequent sitting of the Committee.

And, it being after One of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-two minutes before Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 6th July, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill. Committee to meet on Tuesday next.

Hythe Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.]. The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 163A relating to Private Bills, he had, on the requisition of the Chairman of Committees, appointed Robert Moore, of 199, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, in the county of Essex, as guardian or protector of the infant Harry Charles Grey, to represent such infant before the Committee on the Bill.

Earl of Stamford's Cheshire Estate Bill [H.L.]. The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 163A relating to Private Bills, he had, on the requisition of the Chairman of Committees, appointed Charles Theobald, of Salisbury House, London Wall, in the City of London, as guardian or protector of the infants the Honourable Roger Grey, commonly called Lord Grey of Groby, and the Honourable Jane Grey, commonly called Lady Jane Grey, to represent such infants before the Committee on the Bill.

South Barracas (Buenos Ayres) Gas and Coke Company Bill [H.L.]. Read 2a.

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Great Western Railway (New Railways) Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Donovan's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Minutes of evidence and proceedings before this House on the Second Reading, together with the documents deposited in the case, returned from the Commons.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Glasgow Corporation (Tramways Consolidation) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] (No. 121). A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Glasgow Corporation Tramways; And

Glasgow Corporation Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] (No. 122). A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Glasgow Corporation.

Were presented by the Marquess of Linlithgow (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Sections 8 and 9); read 1a; and to be printed.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill, The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Edgware and Hampstead Railway Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House as the panel of Lords to act as Commissioners under the Act, viz.:—

V. Falkland,

L. Stewart of Garlies (*E. Galloway*);

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

PETITIONS.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of Royal Sanitary Institute; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING.

Petition for legislation for; of inhabitants of Carlisle; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 to 1900 (SCOTLAND).

Report of the Inspector for Scotland under the Acts, for the year 1904.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 4th July, 1905, amending the schedule to the Minute of 30th January, 1905, providing for the establishment of committees for the training of teachers.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3430. Turkey (Salonica).

No. 3431. France (New Caledonia).

No. 3432. Roumania.

LONDON TRAFFIC.

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the means of locomotion and transport in London (Volume I.).

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Return of prices of certain classes of Irish agricultural products and live stock, for the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, and the number of patients seen, by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ended the 30th June, 1905.

MINES AND QUARRIES (GENERAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 1903. PART IV. COLONIAL AND FOREIGN STATISTICS).

Statistics relating to persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the British Colonies and in foreign countries.

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners, and statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 30th June, 1905, granting a retired allowance to Mr. Clement Millard, superintending civil engineer at Portland.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

WAR STORES (COMMISSION) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow (*The Lord Chancellor*). (No. 123.)

PUBLIC ROADS (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 124.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Order of the day for Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being suspended for this day's sitting, read, and discharged, and said Standing Order to be considered To-morrow in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting.

MR. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896, ETC., CONTINUANCE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD KENYON: My Lords, the object of the Bill which I have to ask the House to read a second time this evening is, I think, very well known to your Lordships, but I should not be acting with courtesy to the House if I did not say a few words upon it. Its object is to preserve the continuance for four years of the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, the Tithe Rent Charge Rates Act, 1899, and two Scottish Acts of a similar nature. In short, the effect of this Bill is to relieve the occupiers of agricultural land, and the clerical owners of tithe rent-charge, from one-half of the local rates, and to supply the deficiency by an annual grant from the local taxation account out of sums paid to that account from the proceeds of estate duty derived from personal property. This policy was extended to tithe rent-charge attached to benefices in 1899 to carry into effect the second Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation. These Acts were renewed in 1901, the principle being that both the occupiers of agricultural land and clerical rent-charge owners had paid more than their fair share to the local rates.

The principle is not a new one. It was recognised by Parliament in the Public Health Acts with regard to rates for sanitary purposes, in which case both those classes of people were exempted from three-fourths. The Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture pointed out the unfair position of the agricultural occupier, but did not consider it feasible to relieve him to the extent of three-fourths, to which extent he had been relieved before. It was felt that if this were the only change it would result in a heavy charge on the other ratepayers, and therefore a grant from local taxation account was made equal to one-half the rates, and that amount was based on the rates paid in the year preceding the passing of the Act. That fixed grant still remains the same, and amounts altogether to about £1,300,000. In the case of the tithe rent-charge the course pursued is a little different. In that case one-half of the total amount of the rates is paid by the owner and one-half on demand by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, through the surveyor of taxes. This is not a fixed grant, and has risen from £105,000 in 1900–1 to £125,000 in 1903–4, showing a very large increase in rates in the country. The Scottish Acts involved in this Continuance Bill are the Agricultural Rates Congested District Act and the Burgh Land Tax Relief Act, 1896, and the Local Taxation Act, 1898.

I do not think it is necessary for me to discuss the principle of this Bill. Your Lordships are mostly landowners and thoroughly understand it, and I think you will agree with me that it has done a great deal to relieve the people whom it was hoped it would relieve. There were many arguments against it when it was first introduced in 1896, but I think it is obvious, from the manner in which this Bill has recently passed through the other House, that those arguments were not altogether founded on fact. It was also admitted in the other House that unless some re-adjustment of local taxation could take place it was necessary to continue this Act. The Government had hoped to pass some measure for the readjustment of local taxation; but, had no other reasons prevailed, the state of the Exchequer would not have allowed of that. Sufficient time, however, has not been at the service of the Government to enable them to pass such a Bill. Last year they did give an earnest of their wish to do something in this respect by introducing a Valuation Bill, but time did not permit of the passing of that measure, and other, perhaps more important, things took its place. I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2a."—(*Lord Kenyon.*)

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I take no exception to the speech which has just been delivered by the noble Lord in charge of the Bill, but I feel it necessary to explain the course which I intend to pursue, as it may appear to your Lordships somewhat inconsistent. I am not going to oppose the Second Reading of the Bill or to in any way impede its progress through your Lordships' House. At the same time I do not agree with the statement of the noble Lord that the course pursued in the House of Commons in regard to this Bill showed that there was no foundation for the arguments which were used at the outset when the measure was first introduced in 1896. I take an entirely different view. I oppose most strongly the mode of action of the Bill, and I maintain that, since the Act has been at work, the arguments which were used against it when it was first introduced are proved to have been perfectly valid, and I think stronger reasons could now be urged against the Bill than were put forward at that time.

Now, why is it that I and others with whom I act are opposed to the principle of this Bill? It was originally introduced as a temporary measure pending a general revision of the system of rating. It was on that account that the Bill was passed. It was renewed in 1901 because it had been the law then for five years, and it was felt that it would have been exceedingly unjust to those ratepayers concerned if suddenly this measure, which gave them very considerable assistance, was withdrawn. For the same reason I feel at the present moment that it is necessary that the Bill should be again renewed, but I still object to the principle. I admit at once that it is necessary that in the matter of rating and valuation there should be sweeping changes. There are a great many anomalies and inequalities in the system which now prevails, but this measure is what I call a piece of patchwork. It extends to one particular class; and though that class, I quite admit, with other classes, has a claim to consideration if a general measure were adopted, its claim for relief is not so strong as that of other classes.

Take the case of agricultural land. You will find that much larger relief is given to those who are able to bear the rates than to those less able to bear them, and anyone who refers to the very able Report of the Royal Commission over which Lord Balfour of Burleigh presided will find ample evidence to the effect that between rich and poor agricultural districts the greatest inequality and unfairness provails. There was evidence given by, I think, a Rev. Mr. Davies, showing that the Act worked exceedingly unevenly. He said he knew of accommodation land which was rented at £4 per acre being relieved, a case which probably needed no relief, and I maintain that a case like this should not be held in the same proportion as land which was rented at 5s. an acre. And if we compare the rates in towns and in agricultural districts the comparison is very striking indeed. You cannot possibly contend that agricultural districts require the same assistance as urban districts.

It is assumed that the burden on agricultural land has increased very much. I admit that it has to a certain degree, and I will explain why I admit it presently. But if you take the rates on agricultural land in the year 1817 and compare them with those in the year 1891, you find this—that whereas the burden borne by land in 1817 amounted to £6,733,000, in 1891 it had come down to £4,260,000; whilst, with regard to houses and other property, in 1817 the rates amounted to £3,366,000, and in 1891 to £23,500,000. Those, I think, are very striking figures. They may vary now to some extent. We had evidence before the Royal Commission that the rates had greatly increased since 1891 and 1892 and I quite admit that; but I have taken some little pains to examine assessments and rates on property which I know in my own neighbourhood and in different counties in England, and I am sure that what I have said as to no great increase in the hereditary taxation of land will be found to be the case. Where there is no extra rate, such as a sanitary rate or a special rate for a new road, it will be found that the rates within the last twenty years have not varied very much.

But if you look at the other rates you will find that they have increased to an enormous extent. The details of this subject are voluminous; it would be difficult for even the most skilled statistician to make them clear to your Lordships, and I shall not, therefore, attempt the task. I am quite ready to admit that if you take the hereditary rates, which I call the pure poor rate, the county, borough, and police rate, and the highways rate, they have increased from nearly £11,000,000 in 1817 to £23,212,276 in 1900. That is a very heavy increase. Further, we have the addition of the education rate in rural districts, and I believe I am not overstating it when I say that in a great many counties the education rate has already increased to something like 7d. in the £, and when they deal with secondary education the rate will go up to 1s. That state of things is, I think, a very serious one. This increasing burden in rates shows the absolute necessity of redistributing the rates and putting them on a fair and equitable footing.

I am not one of those who say that agricultural land should not be considered in that redistribution. I certainly think that agricultural land should be taken into account because there has been some unfairness with regard to the mode of rating, as has been very well expressed in the Minority Report of Sir Edward Hamilton and Sir George Murray. I will venture to read to your Lordships what they say—

> "We think it fair to draw a distinction in favour of property used for agricultural purposes, because there is little doubt that on the whole its rateable value is considerably higher in proportion to the ability of the occupier to pay than in the case of any other occupation."

That I believe to be perfectly true. I have heard it said that the Agricultural Rates Act has been unfair, because instead of benefiting the tenant it has benefited the landlord. I think it has been conclusively shown that rates on economic principles must fall on the landlord. In every calculation as to rent rates are taken into consideration before the rent is fixed. No doubt there are cases where the rent is not revised for a long time; sometimes it is that the landlord is too poor to do it, sometimes it is that he is unwilling to do it; and if there is a great increase in the rates, then I admit it falls very unjustly on the tenant. But on economic grounds I maintain that rates are paid by the landlord, and in a general measure I deny that it is right to exclude the landlord if it is shown that he bears an undue share of rates.

I have said enough, I think, to show that this Bill works exceedingly unevenly and that it causes great dissatisfaction, not only among agriculturists themselves, who find their neighbours, also in agriculture, receiving much greater advantage than they do themselves, but it causes just complaint amongst urban ratepayers, whose rates have so enormously, and, I venture to think, unduly, increased. The amount involved in this Bill is a very large one; it comes to an addition of very nearly a penny to the income-tax, and all to relieve one special class. I find, according to Returns, that rates generally have increased more rapidly since 1891 than at any previous period. The Commissioners in their Report state that they have increased at the rate of about £1,500,000 a year, and when we take into consideration what the education rate will now be, I think your Lordships will agree that the matter is a very serious one, and one which ought to receive most careful attention. I shall not go into the interesting but intricate question as to the enormous alteration in the proportionate value of land to houses. There is also the question of some of these rates being remunerative. That, too, has to be borne in mind. There is no doubt that some of the rates are remunerative, and, therefore, cannot be said to impose an undue burden. There are, notwithstanding, very serious anomalies in the present system, and there have been in the past even greater anomalies.

Take the question of valuation. I had some years ago considerable experience in this matter, having twice been chairman of a union assessment committee when making a union assessment, and twice chairman of a county rating committee which made a new county rate assessment. Your Lordships are, of course, aware that there are two rates in a country district—I am speaking now of rural districts—there is the poor rate and the county rate. In old days the poor rate and Poor Law assessment was the rate and assessment for the levying of all taxation, whether for the relief of the poor and other work belonging to the Poor Law, or for the county rate; but that, happily, was altered. It had been the case for many years that different unions had a perfectly different standard of valuation. Each union tried to have a lower standard than its neighbour. Fortunately, an Act was passed enabling the county to have its own valuation.

The counties then had their own county rate, and the first thing that was done in my county was this. We brought all the unions together, and compared their assessment with the income-tax assessment, and this secured a uniform standard throughout the county. The old system caused great injustice to railways. I recollect, as chairman of quarter sessions, hearing an appeal from a railway company which complained that, as several unions were assessed at a very low figure, and not at the same standard of value as the railways, the railways paid an undue amount to the county rates. But this anomaly still exists, that the county never assesses individual farms; they only assess the unions and parishes. In this way, therefore, you have now a county rate collected with the poor rate. It is not unfair to a parish, because parishes are all at about the same standard of value, but it is collected very often on a totally different standard from that which would obtain if the county had valued each separate holding. That is an anomaly which ought not to exist any longer.

In some counties I understand that the variation in the standard still exists. I have even heard of towns choosing to have a low standard, with this result, that they did not diminish their expenditure, but when their expenditure was as high as their neighbours they had a much higher rate; and I have heard of people who were about to settle in a town refusing to go there because the rates were so high. That difficulty has arisen owing to the town wishing to have a low standard of assessment instead of a fair standard. I think one of the most important things with regard to the whole of this subject is that there should be one valuation fixed for all kinds of assessment. There should be the same valuation for the income-tax, for the county rate, and for the union and district rate, and in that way the complications to which I have referred would be avoided. I know that this is not an easy thing to do.

The noble Lord referred to a proposal of His Majesty's Government in the Speech of last year to pass a Valuation Bill.

LORD KENYON: It was introduced.

*EARL SPENCER: I think on three or four other occasions Bills have been promised and attempted, but have always failed. I quite admit the difficulty of dealing with this matter, but it is essential that it should be taken in hand.

I come to another point. The cry has always been that real property has paid more in proportion than personal property, and at different times considerable relief has been given by Government. It began in the time of Sir Robert Peel, in 1846, and the estimated relief to rates that he proposed amounted to something like £341,000. Then came the Police Act of 1856, brought in by Sir George Grey under a Liberal Government, and next came the relief in 1874, proposed by Sir Stafford Northcote. In 1877 Mr. (now Viscount) Cross made a very important proposition, which was carried out, whereby local prisons were transferred from the local authorities to the State. Next there was the grant of £250,000 in respect of dis-turnpiked roads given by Mr. Gladstone's Government in 1882. Then came very large and important changes made by Mr. Goschen when he allotted certain taxes for the purpose of local relief.

In this way there has been an enormous increase in Exchequer contributions. In 1879–80 Government contributions amounted to £2,733,846, and in 1899–1900 to £12,249,083. These grants were at first always given on condition of certain payments being made to different authorities. Some of those have been swept away by Mr. Goschen's proposal, but a considerable number still exist, and I maintain that that is not a sound principle of financial administration of local bodies. They have a mandate to pay over to certain unions particular sums, and these deal with salaries of teachers, school fees, fees for the registration of births and deaths, pauper lunatics, and the cost of union offices. These are, I understand, the only ones now left. The police is a different matter, because there the counties pay a large sum out of the rates. I think this principle is not a sound one.

It is not a sound principle that representative bodies should be forced by precept or mandate to pay certain sums when they have no control whatever as to the distribution of those sums.

These abuses have been to a certain extent diminished, but they still in some measure exist. With regard to Mr. Goschen's great Act, I cannot help thinking that, rather unexpectedly probably to the author, this system of payment has worked exceedingly ill. The sums have increased enormously, but they have confused all the accounts. Nobody, unless he is perfectly versed in county affairs, would be able to wade through a balance-sheet of a county with regard to Exchequer contributions and all these different sums without the greatest difficulty. In the counties there is confusion, but there is confusion also with regard to the Exchequer accounts because these sums are paid out. The money raised by taxation is not available for general national expenditure, and a very abstruse calculation has to be made by eliminating what is paid to the counties out of public revenue before you can really arrive at what the national revenue clearly is. Therefore, I submit that this system, particularly since the Agricultural Rates Act has been passed, has left both the national finance and local finance in a state of terrible chaos.

The question of compounding of rates is another matter which I think ought to be considered. No question has created more difficulty in Parliament and elsewhere than this question. I remember hearing a brilliant speech from my great leader, the late Mr. Gladstone, on this subject in the House of Commons. He defended the compounding of rates on this ground, that it was eminently convenient in the collection of rates that one person instead of a great many persons should pay the rate, and he argued that it distinctly came out of the rent of the cottages or houses. Economically my right hon. friend was, no doubt, quite right, but in practice I am sure that hardly any householder, either in towns or villages, in respect of whose dwellings the rates are compounded, ever thinks that in the rent is included the rates, or makes any remonstrance of extravagance or overexpenditure. It is, I admit, a difficult subject, but I feel that it is one of the greatest possible importance.

It is very necessary that all electors should be made to take an interest in, and feel responsibility for, public expenditure, and if hundreds of thousands of people do not know how much of their rent goes towards rates, I think it is a very serious matter indeed. A curious instance was brought to my notice recently in the case of the borough of Holborn. Figures were collected a little while ago by that borough showing that more than a quarter of the sum paid in rates in Holborn was paid by companies which had no voting power whatever, and that, on the other hand, more than half of the registered voters paid no rates at all. Therefore, the people who pay the rates do not vote, and the people who do not pay have votes. Direct taxation is the best way of showing electors where there is good government, and on that ground I wish sincerely that something could be done by Act of Parliament to alter the present system.

One of my reasons for urging a general Act for the redistribution of Exchequer contributions, and putting rates on a different system, is that I want to avoid the patchwork legislation which is continually being proposed. We have this Act, which of course we must now carry for the reasons I have given, but we have continually other Acts—Acts of great importance — proposed, which, if carried, would only add to the patchwork and make confusion worse confounded. There are many friends of mine who think the taxation of land values a just and easy thing to do. I to a certain extent agree, but I recognise that there are great difficulties in regard to that question. It will have to be considered, and considered very carefully, but I want it to be taken into consideration not alone as this Bill has been, but in conjunction with a general scheme revising the whole system of rating. I am not going to propound the remedies which have been put forward in the great Report of the Royal Commission. I use the word "great" advisedly, for I believe it is one of the most valuable Reports ever submitted to Parliament, and ought to be the foundation of future rating and valuation Acts. There are many things to be considered, and the whole subject should be taken in hand and dealt with.

The present position with regard to rating and valuation—I might even say with regard to taxation, though that goes rather beyond the scope of this Bill—is most unsatisfactory. It encourages peddling and tinkering with the question, and to that I have the greatest possible objection. What we require is not separate and individual steps, but a comprehensive, far-reaching, and equitable measure. The present Government had their opportunity to carry such a Bill; they had a gigantic majority in another place; they have a still more gigantic majority here, and yet they have not dealt with the subject even after the able Report of the Royal Commission which they themselves appointed. The noble Lord said there were two reasons why His Majesty's Government could not deal with the question. One was that the Exchequer was not very full at this moment, and that it required an overflowing Exchequer to deal with it. But does it? It is not so certain that we require great additions to the grants from the Exchequer. What we want is a fairer and better redistribution of the grants. With regard to time, I cannot help thinking that the time at the disposal of the Government is very much under their command, and I certainly cannot congratulate His Majesty's Government on the way they have used the time which they had at their disposal in another place. I do not wish to say hard things, but they seem to me to have wasted the time there, and if they had managed things with more judgment they would have had time to deal with this and many other important subjects. The task of redressing what is wrong and unjust in the matter of rating is, as I have said, a difficult problem, but, though it may take much time and great labour, if it is done it will repay the time bestowed upon it by any Government.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, after the reference which has been made by the noble Earl I think your Lordships will not be surprised if I desire to say a few words on some of the aspects of the questions which have been brought before us to-night. The noble Earl, I think, used very fully the traditional liberty of this House in matters of debate when he made the speech we have just listened to upon the Second Reading of what is, after all, a very humble little measure—a speech covering, if not the whole field, at any rate a very large portion of the whole field, of local taxation. As to very much of what the noble Earl said towards the latter part of his speech there will be no disagreement on this side of the House. I think he made some very wise and statesmanlike observations on the question of compounding. I entirely concur with what he said. I believe the practice of compounding, however comfortable for the local authorities, however easy as a matter of collecting the rates, is entirely vicious in principle, and ought to be, if not altogether abolished, which I believe is impossible, at any rate confined within very much narrower limits than it is. And for this reason. Many of those who pay under the system of compounding do not know, and have no means of knowing, for what they are paying. They are apt to think that because the sum that is collected from them by the landlord is larger as time goes on the whole of that increase is increase of rent due to the rapacity of the landlord, and, owing to the fact that they have no means of having it divided for them, they get a very false idea of the real cause of their increased contribution; and I think one of the most salutary reforms which you could carry into effect would be to make it a necessary incident of the system of compounding that the demand note should render it easy for the person who has to pay to distinguish between what is paid in rent and what is paid in rates, so that he would see, as each year goes on, that the increase in what he has to pay is not wholly rent, but is, to a large extent, on account of increased contribution to the rates.

There were some complaints in the earlier portion of the noble Earl's speech about the method in which this matter had been dealt with by the Government during the last ten years, and a part of his complaint was that the Act had been introduced in the first instance as a temporary measure, and had been so continued during the last nine or ten years at three different intervals. I cannot help thinking that in making that complaint the noble Earl was oblivious of the real history of how this grievance has risen. The original basis of the contribution to local rates, especially the poor rate, was that it should be a contribution according to the ability of the person who had to pay. The well-known Act of Elizabeth provided that it should be according to the ability of the inhabitants, and personal property was technically liable to contribution for the poor rate, and was, in many instances, obliged to pay down to the year 1840. In 1839 a decision was given which brought the matter to a crisis, and in the following year an Act was passed as a temporary measure exempting personal property from the payment of rates. I think it is, at any rate, some palliation of what the noble Earl thinks is an offence in this case, when we recollect that the Act passed in 1840 for one year as a temporary measure has found its way into the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, and has been renewed ever since that time, always ostensibly for one year.

Even that does not exhaust the whole case, because 1840 was, as your Lordships, of course, know, before the repeal of the Corn Laws, and the grievance was intensified by that repeal, of which I am not going to complain; but, as a matter of historical fact, the grievance to the landed interest was intensified by the repeal, because out of what they then had they were more able to pay even the larger contribution which the noble Earl has indicated. He gave some figures which, as quoted, are rather misleading. The noble Earl said that in towns and urban districts the *quantum* of the rates is very much larger than in agricultural or rural districts. That, as a sweeping general statement, is undoubtedly true; but before you can make a proper comparison of the burden which is borne, not only by the rural ratepayer as distinguished from the urban ratepayer, but as between different classes of ratepayers in rural and urban districts, you must bear in mind, when you talk of an urban rate of 8s. or 9s. in the £ as against a rural rate of 4s. or 5s. in the £, that the urban rate in almost every case includes a very great deal more than the rural rate does. In these days of municipal enterprise, as to which I make no objection, in such matters as water, gas, and so on, the ratepayer in the urban district is getting a great deal more for the money which he pays, and a great many beneficial services are discharged for him by the local authority which, if they were not discharged for him as a communal charge spread over the whole of the county, would have to be done by himself at greater expense. Therefore, if you are going to compare the burden borne by rural and urban ratepayers you must take care that you compare like with like, and you must eliminate, when you are making a comparison between the gross burdens borne, everything in the nature of a beneficial rate.

So much, then, for the question whether the urban or rural ratepayer is more entitled to relief from the Exchequer. If I understood the noble Earl rightly, he made it a part of his case against this policy—not against this Bill, but against the policy—that in 1817 a sum of £7,000,000 was drawn from the landed interest in the name of the Poor Law, and that now it had come down to £4,000,000. Nothing could be more misleading than to state the broad figures like that, because the question is not what was paid as a total contribution, but what the levy per £ was. I should be very much surprised if it is not the case, comparing the ability to pay with the revenue upon which it was paid, that the £7,000,000 of 1817 was probably felt to be less burdensome than the £4,000,000 of the present day. It was made a point also that at the same time as the gross contribution from land had fallen the gross contribution from houses had risen. Well, just look at the relative proportion in valuation between houses and land at the beginning of the last century and now.

*EARL SPENCER: I specially said there had been a very great difference in proportion between the value of land and the value of houses.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: If the noble Earl once admits that, surely his whole generalisation falls to the ground, because the gross amount that you levy from any class of property cannot be compared fairly unless at the same time, in a matter of this kind, you estimate also the gross amount of the property from which it is drawn and the ability of the owner of that property to bear the burden. The noble Earl also made a considerable point of the number of different efforts which had been made to relieve the local ratepayer at the expense of the national taxpayer. With regard to that part of the noble Earl's speech you must be careful to remember that all these attempts are not accumulative. You must remember that under some of the statutes the contributions were in substitution for those which had gone immediately before.

The noble Earl commented, not a bit too strongly, on the complication of the present system. I agree that it is almost bewildering in its confusion. I should be sorry to say, after five years of study, that I thoroughly understand it; but I am quite sure of one thing, that when there is a change, when there is a reform of the whole system of local taxation, the noble Earl will be living in a fool's paradise if he thinks it will not necessarily involve an increased contribution from the Imperial Exchequer to local rates. And it is on that ground, I believe, as much as any other, that the Government have shrunk from dealing with the matter. If there had not been a great expenditure recently in South Africa, I believe this question would have been dealt with; but you may depend upon it that, though you may say you want fairer and better distribution, the noble Earl will find that those from whom anything is taken will vent their displeasure upon their representatives, and through their representatives upon the Government, and that those who get the benefit under any system of reform will, if they do not sit quiet, simply say they have not had enough, but ought to have more.

It is, in my opinion, impossible to over-estimate the difficulty, complexity, and far-reaching ramifications of the question which has been touched on

Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

to-night. I am sure if the matter is fairly considered you will find that during the last two or three years there has not been an opportunity for comprehensively dealing with the whole question. The noble Earl touched upon the increase in the rates, and incidentally upon matters in connection with that. I venture to say that when you do deal with this matter, what you will have to do will be to endeavour to reconcile local control and local management and yet to get a fair contribution from the Imperial Exchequer, and to secure that that contribution is paid in uch a way that it will not be, as it has sometimes been in the past, taken to be a premium on local extravagance. What you have got to do, in my humble opinion, is to look in this direction. At the same time you must find out what part of the charges which are laid upon the local ratepayer involve matters of national policy. There is a national policy involved in having a sound poor rate and in having good education, and, taking those two things as an example, you must endeavour to combine efficiency with economy, and you cannot get rid of local control. Yet it is not fair to penalise those parts of the country which are efficient in the matter of poor rate and education. Anyone who will turn to the pages of the Report of the Royal Commission will find a scheme drawn out, to which I have appended my name, which I derived from one or two of the best known local administrators of taxation in England, which will be worthy of a certain amount of study.

The noble Earl alluded to the question of valuation, and in that I venture to think he touched the real root of what is necessary to do first. You must have an efficient system of valuation, and I hope noble Lords from England will not be offended with me when I say that in Scotland we are at least half a century ahead of England in this matter, because we have a valuation up to date renewed every year; whereas in England—I elicited the fact from a witness who gave evidence before the Commission—in some country parishes a new system of valuation has not been introduced for thirty years. The noble Earl was right when he said that what you have to aim at is one valuation for Imperial, county, and parish purposes. We have got that in Scotland, but in England you have various authorities pulling against one another. One of the reasons for the Tithe Rent Charge Act, which has been very much commented upon at various times, is this, that by the continual failing to keep the union assessment, which greatly depends on the action of the parish overseers up to date, the tithe rent-charge owner, who is always rated up to the hilt, because the value is known, has from time to time been put in a relatively unfair position as compared with other ratepayers. That is a fair thing to remember when you are dealing with a Bill which is extending relief to that particular class of ratepayer, whose case for relief was proved more fully than any other case I have ever had to deal with.

We believe there never was a greater injustice perpetrated upon any class of ratepayer than upon the agricultural ratepayer when he had to pay his rates upon the full valuation of his farm. One witness who came before us gave detailed figures which proved to our satisfaction that in the parish with which he was connected the agricultural ratepayer paid about 15 per cent. of his income in rates, and that no other ratepayer paid more than 5 per cent. Those who were using property for manufacturing purposes were not paying more than 1·5 per cent. on what was probably their income. That was a very grave injustice, which the agricultural interest could not bear, and one which it was perfectly right to relieve them of, and this relief must be continued to them until a general comprehensive reform is undertaken. When that may be in our present political conditions and with the difficulties of it, I am bound to say I dare not forecast; but this I do say, that I do not envy the Government, from whichever political Party it is drawn, which has to undertake the task, but if ever there was a case which ought to be decided, not on Party lines, but on sound business lines, it is this question of rating. I suppose it is hopeless this year, but I hope whoever is in power next year, whether it be this Government or any other, will make a real effort to deal with the question of valuation, because that is a necessary prelude to any reform of local taxation, and that question, I think, would not be nearly so complicated as the reform of local taxation itself, for it could be done, and largely done, by giving power to local authorities who are competent to do it, and who ought to be entrusted with it.

EARL CARRINGTON: My Lords, I am not going to presume to take up the time of the House on this subject, but I should like to be allowed to call attention to two sentences that fell from my noble friend who moved the Second Reading of this Bill. The noble Lord expressed the great desire of the Government to undertake the question of readjusting local taxation, and a great many reasons were given why that was impossible. We have been told that there was not enough money in the Exchequer and not enough time at the disposal of Parliament. But I suppose there is one more reason why this great subject has not been taken in hand, and that is the promise of Mr. Balfour not to overburden his supporters with too much legislation. I must say I rubbed my eyes with astonishment when I heard my noble friend opposite, who is such an authority on agriculture, say that this Act was brought in in the interests of the occupiers and had done a great deal to relieve those persons whom the Government had hoped it would relieve.

May I, for one moment, call the attention of the House to the Bill itself? Lord Balfour calls it a very humble measure. I do not know whether it is such a humble measure after all, for it seems to raise the whole question of the incidence of rating. This humble measure, which we are asked to renew for four years, represents a tax on the whole community of about £1,250,000 annually. I should have thought, in the present state of affairs, that that was a somewhat serious matter. Farmers' rates, I have always understood, are calculated at something like 2s. an acre. If you take them all over England you would find that the average rates of tenant farmers are about that sum. Half of that, therefore, is equivalent to a reduction in rent of 1s. per acre—namely, 5 per cent. Considering what tremendous reductions —30, 40, and 50 per cent.—have been made in rents all over England in days gone by, I do not think that that is, after all, such a very great boon to the tenant farmer as some would think. Rents have been stationary since 1896, while, as my noble friend the Leader of the Opposition, in his most masterly exposition on the subject, has pointed out, rates have gone up very considerably.

I should like to put before the House the position of a man like myself, who is entirely dependent upon land, and who looks upon land-owning from a business point of view. Supposing a man has 25,000 acres of land, a reduction of 1s. an acre means on that land £1,250, which is paid by the whole community at large. If you wanted to put the tenants in the same position, you would either have to give them a temporary reduction of 10 per cent., or you would have to make a permanent reduction yourself of £1,250 a year; but though the rates, as the noble Earl behind me has said, have gone up, yet the rents have remained stationary, and the tenant farmer in 1905 is practically in the same position as he was in 1896. I cannot see that he is in any better position. Mr. Henry Chaplin, who is understood to be an agricultural authority, told us that his opinion was that in all matters of this sort the benefit must ultimately go into the landlord's pocket. He went on to illustrate this remark by saying, "The higher the rate the lower the rent; the lower the rate the higher the rent." And the strange thing to me is that in this great historical House, which we have been told owns over one-third of the land of England, we are asked to agree to sanction the continuance of this Bill on the ground that it is a measure in the interests of the tenant farmer. But what I think, if I may say so, stranger still, is that the vast majority of the tenant farmers believe that such is the case, and think that this Act was introduced and intended to work for their benefit, and for their benefit alone.

LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, I thought the old argument that the farmers did not get the benefit of the Agricultural Rates Act was exploded. This is the first time I have heard it for many years, but, even if it was the fact that they did not get the whole of the benefit of the Act, one thing is certain—their rates have largely increased. Nobody can deny that the effect of the Education Act has been to increase the burden on agricultural land. I did not rise so much to deal with an exploded contention as to follow out an argument used by Lord Balfour of Burleigh as to the false assumption drawn from the figures quoted by the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition. It is quite impossible to deal with wholesale figures with regard to rates, either in towns or in the country. In the first place we must remember that if the total amount of rates from agricultural land is less than it was a certain number of years ago, rents have gone down at least 40 per cent., and, therefore, the basis of the rate charge is less; but, over and above that, there is not the same amount of agricultural land in this country as there was at that time. Thousands of acres have been taken away from agricultural districts, and added to town districts, and there is considerably less agricultural area now in which rates can be levied than a few years ago.

But then we are told: Look at the way in which the rates have increased in towns. That, as Lord Balfour said, cannot be dealt with until it has been analysed. In the first place, a great many of those rates are not what we should have called in old days *bona fide* rates; there is a good deal of the commercial aspect about them; and, in the second place, railways and other great businesses contribute very largely to those rates. But do they contribute in the same way as agricultural districts do? Farmers have to pay, not only on their houses, but on their land. They have to pay on what we may call their raw material; but large manufacturers pay comparatively very little in respect of the large incomes which they make. I recollect serving on the committee of a chamber of agriculture a good many years ago, and we found that one of the chief firms in Lincoln, who turned over at least £60,000 a year, was paying exactly the same in rates as a farmer in the same district who was only farming a thousand acres. Therefore, it is, as has been said, impossible to take these figures wholesale.

Lord MONKSWELL: My Lords, I should like to say one word on the Second Reading of this Bill, chiefly from the point of view of the large towns, and of London in particular. I was a little surprised to hear from the noble Lord who has just sat down that the tenant farmers apparently got the whole benefit of this Act, my noble friend behind me having previously quoted Mr. Chaplin to the contrary. I think it is a little unkind of the noble Lord so freely to contradict Mr. Chaplin. For my part, in a matter of this kind I prefer to take the authority of Mr. Chaplin to that of the noble Lord; and I would mention this in support of Mr. Chaplin's contention, that in the House of Commons a large number of Amendments were put down with a view of enabling the tenant farmers to get the benefit of this Act, and those Amendments were opposed by His Majesty's Government, and were not passed.

I wish to say a word on the question of the rates as they affect agricultural land only. The unfairness, as it seems to me, in this Act consists in this, that a county which has been fairly prosperous in agriculture and has not felt the necessity of this Act, gets an enormous benefit from the Act, whereas another county, in which it is most desirable, perhaps, that some such provision as this should be adopted, does not derive much benefit from it. In those places where it is most wanted they get the least benefit from the Act. I do not suppose any noble Lord will deny that if there was any county in England that required this Act it was Essex. Contrast with Essex the county of Devon. There has been hardly any agricultural depression at all in Devon, but we know that the agricultural depression in the county of Essex has been extremely severe. But, under this Act, Devon gets £17,000 and Essex only £14,000. That is to say, the county which requires it most gets less, and the county which does not require anything gets most. If you go further into this matter and analyse the condition of Essex, you find that where the land is poor and the valuation low the amount that is obtained out of the Exchequer is extremely small. And, therefore, it seems to me an extraordinary way to benefit agriculture to introduce a Bill of this kind. With regard to London, we think that we have a very great grievance indeed. London only gets £3,067 out of the whole sum; but what does London pay towards it? It is calculated that London pays at least one-fifth towards this £1,300,000; that is to say, London pays considerably over a quarter of a million for the benefit of agriculture, whereas it only receives a paltry £3,067.

***Lord WELBY**: My Lords, I think the opponents of this Bill would find it possible to show that this measure itself is at once an anomaly and an injustice. For a long time past it has been argued on all sides that the present system of local taxation works in a cumbrous and unfair manner, and both urban and country ratepayers have joined in remonstrating with the Government upon the continuance of the present system and have asked for a reconsideration of it. I rise rather to draw your Lordships' attention to the injustice which has been wrought to the urban ratepayer by the method adopted by His Majesty's Government. For a very long time the cumbrous and defective manner in which the present system of local taxation has worked has been before His Majesty's Government. As long ago as 1896 the Government admitted the injustice, not only in respect of the landed section of the ratepayers, but also in respect of the urban, because when the Agricultural Rates Act was first introduced the Prime Minister in this House admitted the claim of the urban ratepayers to relief and said Her Majesty's Government would have been only too glad, if it had been possible, to include the urban ratepayer in the relief they were giving to the agricultural ratepayer That, I think, shows that so high an authority as the late Lord Salisbuy fully admitted the claim of the urban ratepayer.

A Royal Commission was at the same time granted to inquire into the whole subject, and the natural course, I should have thought, would have been for the Government to have waited for the Report of that Commission and then have introduced a Bill dealing with the whole system, which they acknowledged required revision. Instead of that they chose one section, a highly-favoured section—that section of the ratepayers who are particularly supporters of His Majesty's Government, and gave them a large measure of relief from the Exchequer amounting now to £2,500,000 a year as long ago as 1896. The Royal Commission reported in 1901, and here we are in 1905 with the grievance of the urban ratepayer admitted quite as fully as that of the agricultural ratepayer, yet the agricultural ratepayer has had preference given him and has been relieved for ten years, while the urban ratepayer is still in the same condition as he was before the Royal Commission was appointed. I venture to think that is a very great injustice to the urban ratepayer. Various speakers have given reasons why His Majesty's Government have not dealt with this question; but is it a reasonable excuse for not passing a measure of justice to the whole body of ratepayers in the country to say that you are waiting for a full Exchequer and we are groaning under £25,000,000 of war taxation; and does not that really mean putting this question off to the Greek Kalends? In the meantime the grievance of the urban ratepayer is left utterly unredressed, while this unjust preference is given to the agricultural ratepayer.

I was surprised to hear Lord Heneage describe the contention that the tenant farmer did not benefit by this Act as exploded. I think the noble Lord alone has heard the explosion. I hardly know a person who does not admit, at all events, that it is a very grave question who does really benefit by the Act. I will take perhaps a higher authority on this question than Mr. Chaplin. When the Bill was before Parliament Sir Michael Hicks-Beach declared, upon this very point, that he could not agree with some of the speakers who had said that the landowner would not benefit. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said—

"It will be a benefit to the farmers certainly at first, probably for the whole time of its operation; but when fresh tenancies are created, especially in the present state of the market, as between landlord and tenant, if the change should be more in favour of the landlord than at present, then no doubt, I think, it is admitted the owner of the land will have the advantage."

LORD HENEAGE: I beg the noble Lord's pardon for interrupting him. I was speaking from the experience of the last eight years during which the Act has been in operation. I say that on the expiration of that period rents have not been raised and rates have gone up.

*LORD WELBY: I think the noble Lord generalises in too dangerous a manner. Before we accept that statement we have to inquire into a number of points. This Bill acts particularly hardly on the urban ratepayer in this way. There are two sets of ratepayers, namely, the agricultural ratepayer and the urban ratepayer. Both of them, it is admitted, have a claim to relief. To the agricultural ratepayer relief has been given, but it has been refused to the urban ratepayer. Now comes the way in which a double injustice is done to the urban ratepayer. Not only is relief refused to the urban ratepayer, but he has to pay an enormous sum for the relief of his more fortunate brother, the agricultural ratepayer. This double injustice arises thus: The urban ratepayer is also a taxpayer, and as a taxpayer he pays his share of the grant from the Exchequer to the agricultural ratepayer. I take the case of London. It is, of course, very difficult to calculate the burthen thus cast on the citizen of London, but the best calculation I have seen makes the contribution from London ratepayers under the Agricultural Rates Act equal to a sum varying from £380,000 to £450,000 a year. That is, I maintain, a double injustice. Not only to the London ratepayer is the relief which has been given to his more fortunate brother refused, but in addition he is taxed to the extent of between £380,000 and £450,000 a year towards the relief of his fellow-sufferer.

LORD HERRIES: My Lords, noble Lords seem to me to found their arguments with regard to the person on whom the advantage of this Act has fallen on the prophecies which were made at the time the Act was first introduced. I should like to ask, first, has the rental in the agricultural districts increased since the Agricultural Rates Act passed, and secondly, have the prices of agricultural produce gone down since that Act was passed? If anything, the prices of agricultural produce generally are higher now than they were in 1897; and I am also under the impression—I should like to know if it be true—that the rental in agricultural districts is, if anything, lower than in 1897. If that be the case, then I submit the advantage which has been received from the Act has gone into the pockets of the tenants and not into the pockets of the landlords.

With regard to the contention of the noble Lord who has just sat down, I would point out that agricultural ratepayers have frequently to pay large sums of money for the benefit of the towns. I could give an instance of a farmer occupying 850 acres and paying a rent of over £600 a year, who has to pay for the lighting of a town two miles off because he happens to be in the same parish. In the same way, if the sanitary arrangements in the town are improved he has to contribute. As a matter of fact, he has to pay more than the occupiers in the town. So I think it is hardly fair to say that the agricultural ratepayers have been relieved at the expense of the urban ratepayers. I rose, however, to point out that the question as to whether the benefit has gone into the pockets of the landlords or into those of the tenants is easy to decide. You can, by looking at the rental of land in the country and ascertaining that it is, if anything, lower now, and by taking account of the fact that the price of produce is higher than in 1897, fairly decide that the benefit received from the Agricultural Rates Act has not gone into the pockets of the landlords. It certainly has not gone into the pockets of the landlords in the county in which I reside, and I have no doubt other noble Lords could give a similar experience.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I have not sufficient audacity to venture upon a controversy with the noble Earl opposite or with my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh as to the details of a subject which they themselves admit to be so complicated that, with all the study they have given to it, there yet remains much about which they cannot speak with certainty. With a great deal that fell from the noble Lord in his most interesting speech I think many of us on this side of the House would agree. We all share his aspiration for a comprehensive and scientifically perfect measure for the adjustment of local taxation, such as that the necessity of which he suggested during the course of his remarks. But I was struck by the fact that throughout his observations, and, indeed, throughout the observations of other noble Lords, very little was said against the Bill on the Table of your Lordships' House, although a good many comments were made on the conduct of His Majesty's Government in dealing with the question with which that Bill is concerned.

The noble Earl, at the outset of his speech, told us that he took exception to the principle of the Bill, but I confess I did not detect in what he said to your Lordships any attack upon what I conceive to be the principle of the Bill. The principle of the Bill is merely this, that it is desirable, pending further legislation and as a temporary measure, to continue to certain classes of ratepayers the relief which they have enjoyed during the last nine years. Against this principle not a word, so far as I have been able to judge, has been said during the course of this debate. On the contrary, I think it has been admitted by the noble Earl, as it was by the Leader of the Opposition elsewhere, that it was inevitable, in the present circumstances, that a Bill of this kind should pass into law. The essence of the noble Lord's argument was this, that the Bill, necessary though it may be, is an imperfect measure, the passing of which will leave behind it certain inconsistencies and anomalies which shock the noble Lord's mind. Well, my Lords, we are not here to pretend for a moment that this Bill is a scientifically perfect measure. I take it, on the contrary, that everyone will admit that the Bill will leave certain inequalities between urban and agricultural ratepayers, or again, between different classes of agricultural ratepayers. That is not contested. But the question is whether your Lordships desire to pass a Bill such as this, an admittedly imperfect Bill, or that there should be no legislation at all. That question has been answered by the noble Earl, who has given to it the only answer which can be given.

In this Bill we have done the best that can be done to deal provisionally and temporarily with this difficult question, and it is no argument to say the Bill is a patchwork Bill. A Bill of this kind must, of necessity, be a patchwork Bill. The noble Earl took exception to the argument of my noble friend Lord Kenyon, who gave your Lordships some explanation of the reasons for which the Government had found it impossible to present to Parliament during the last few years a comprehensive and perfect measure such as the noble Earl desires. My noble friend said, to begin with, that such a measure could not be provided unless the condition of the Exchequer were such as to make it easy for the Government of the day to furnish the necessary financial ways and means. To that the noble Earl objected that this was a mere question of readjustment and that he could not see why any additional call on the Exchequer should be necessary.

*EARL SPENCER: I do not think that I said that absolutely. I said that it need not be a condition.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I accept the noble Earl's account of his statement; but being an ill-informed person on such matters I naturally turn for guidance on this subject to the Report which has been so often quoted during the debate, and what does that Report say? The majority, at page 32 of their Report, say that according to their estimate the additional grants to be provided would be the difference between £9,700,000 and £7,145,000. Their estimate, therefore, is that something over £2,500,000 would be required for the purpose. Turning to the Minority Report, I find another calculation which goes to show that the additional cost entailed on the Exchequer would be about £1,500,000. I think, therefore, that my noble friend was justified in saying that the condition of the Exchequer has to be considered before any Government could propose to deal with the question.

Then the noble Earl criticised the Government because they had not found the Parliamentary time necessary for the introduction of a complete measure. I would remind the noble Earl that it is not only the Government of the day that is responsible for the expenditure of Parliamentary time, and I cannot call to mind that during the last few years the Party that sits opposite to us has greatly assisted us in economising the limited amount of time at our disposal. But what is more important still, is that a measure of this kind could not be introduced unless we had, as a preliminary, dealt with the important and intricate question of valuation, and as to that the noble Earl is aware that the Government did make an effort, though not a very successful one. We did introduce a Bill which, if it had received more encouragement, we might have pressed further upon Parliament.

I desire to say one word upon another point which was raised first in the debate by my noble friend Lord Carrington, and afterwards by the noble Lord who sits behind him. My noble friend repeated in this House an argument with which we are very familiar on public platforms, which goes to show that in all cases of this kind, whenever Parliament affords any relief to the occupiers of land, that relief is at once intercepted by the owners. I believe that to be a great misapprehension. It is, of course, perfectly true, as Lord Welby told the House just now, that, from the point of view of the political economist, the removal of any burden from the occupiers of land must ultimately tend to increase the value of that land for letting purposes. That is an economic truth which I think will not be challenged. But is it the case that the passing of a measure of this kind affords no relief to the occupier? My noble friend Lord Carrington has told the House that he is a landlord of the landlords, and those who know him feel perfectly sure that he is a generous and indulgent landlord.

But I would like to ask him whether in a case of this kind it would be his habit, supposing some slight relief were given to his tenants by the Legislature, immediately to call upon those tenants to add an equivalent amount to the payment they make to him in the shape of rent. I do not believe it for an instant, and I only suggest that my noble friend should impute to other landlords the same liberality and forbearance which he himself would exercise.

*EARL SPENCER: What the noble Marquess says is perfectly true up to a certain point, but to my knowledge there are many landlords who would have had to make considerable reductions in their rentals if the Act had not passed.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Well, there is only one way of solving this question that I can suggest to noble Lords opposite, and that is that they should ask the tenant-farmers of this country what they think. I will undertake to say that they will find that every tenant-farmer believes that the Bill is of some use to him, and would be extremely indignant if there was any idea of abandoning it. That is the practical contribution which I make to the solution of the problem, and I leave it to the noble Lords opposite.

On Question, Bill read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT BILL.

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

SCHOOLS AND THE HAY HARVEST.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND AND GORDON, who had given notice of the following Question, "To ask the Lord President of the Council whether the managers of a public elementary school have power to close the school for a fortnight in time of hay harvest so that the boys may be employed in leading horses, this fortnight's holiday being deducted from the usual six weeks given in time of corn harvest," said: My Lords, I should like to make a slight variation in the terms of the Question which I propose to put to the learned President of the Council, otherwise it might appear that, in the event of getting any of the relief which I hope the noble Marquess may be able to see his way to afford, I proposed that schoolboys on holiday should be used only for leading horses. A very few sentences will be sufficient to explain the object I have in putting this Question on the Paper. Most of your Lordships are well aware that one of the great difficulties in agriculture with which we have to contend at present is the shortness of labour. This does not refer only to the South of England. Having some considerable acquaintance with the North of Scotland as regards agriculture and agricultural property, I can say that this complaint is made as strongly and as vigorously there as in the South of England. There was a time when the corn harvest was looked upon as practically the event of the farmer's year, but from economical causes, with which I need not trouble your Lordships, a considerable amount of land has gone out of corn cultivation and been laid down to grass. Under these circumstances the hay crop at the present time claims a far larger share in the interest of the farmer than was the case when his main profits were made from the growth of cereals.

Then, again, my Lords, perhaps I should say at once that in putting this question on the Paper it is not in the least my intention to endeavour to get round any of the regulations imposed by the Education Act. Some of us think that they press a little hardly upon us, but I am well aware of all the benefits conferred by education, and would be the last person in the world to try to get them diminished in any way. Some of us may possibly think that the advantages obtained are hardly commensurate with the expense incurred, but that is a matter upon which I need not trouble your Lordships at present. Probably many of your Lordships indulge in the luxury of a home farm. I use the word "luxury" advisedly, because I look upon a luxury as a pleasure for which you pay money and in many cases get a very inadequate return. Some of your Lordships are, I dare say, more fortunate than others in your agricultural pursuits, but too many of those who undertake the management of a home farm must be well aware of the numerous difficulties that crop up from time to time in making that as paying an occupation as one could wish. I can imagine those of your Lordships who are interested in this matter having, at a time like this, a consultation with your farm bailiff, casting a wistful eye on the weather-glass, and saying, "Oh, if only we had a few more hands what a good thing it would be! It would enable us to get in our hay crop."

Then, my Lords, I may say further, in seeking some assistance in this way from the noble Marquess the Lord President of the Council, that there is one Department of the Government which at the present moment does recognise that it is essential that facilities should be given for the proper carrying out of the hay harvest. Unless I am very much mistaken, the War Office, where the supply of local labour is insufficient, give leave for the employment of soldiers if the necessary application is made. It is on those lines that I am asking my noble friend to see if he cannot assist us by allowing some alteration in the conditions as to holidays in public elementary schools. I might also mention that only this morning in reading a local newspaper I came across an account of a sale—a land sale, I believe—where, after describing what took place, went on to say that most members then left somewhat hurriedly as their hay-making was causing them some anxiety. I mention these things only to show your Lordships that hay-making is not a pastime; on many farms it is a matter of very considerable interest to the farmer. Where you have a larger area of land laid down to grass than was formerly the case, it stands to reason that it is a necessity that no obstacles should be put in the way of your obtaining a crop which provides winter food for the animals that are now kept on the land laid down to grass.

The Duke of Richmond.

Now, my Lords, I do not wish to anticipate the objections my noble friend may have to this suggestion, but there are only two that occur to me, and they are these. It might be said that if you divide the school holidays into two portions it will be hard upon the teachers to have to take one portion of their holidays at one time and another portion at another time. The other possible objection is that by the interposition of a fortnight's holiday in the middle of the summer, followed by a spell of work, and then by a longer holiday, the same results may not be obtained from the education which my noble friend thinks ought to be obtained. But I would ask the noble Marquess whether he cannot see his way to help us in this direction. I do not mean to say for a moment that if it can be done it will remove all the difficulties from which agriculturists are at the present moment suffering. But if he could hold out the prospect of something of this sort being done, I think my noble friend would earn the gratitude of a very large number of agriculturists throughout the country.

There is one point I would put to your Lordships in conclusion; it is this. At the present moment, owing to the exigencies of the Education Act, it is far more difficult than it used to be to get boys to carry out what I may call the lighter work of the farm. There are many occupations in which boys could be usefully employed, such as tending sheep, minding cattle, and various other forms of light work; but, owing to the increased length of time they are kept at school, in many districts it is almost impossible to get their services for such work. If my noble friend could assist in the direction I suggest, these boys might be put to such occupations a I have mentioned, by that means relieving men of the duty and enabling the farmer to employ the men so relieved on the harder work of actually securing the hay crop, for which work the boys would not be quite so suitable.

*Lord ZOUCHE OF HARYNGWORTH: My Lords, before the noble Marquess answers for the Government I should like to endorse to the full all that has fallen from the noble Duke on this important subject. I know from what I have heard that there is considerable discontent expressed in country districts as to the way in which children are kept at school in conformity with the law and not allowed to engage in agricultural occupations of what I may call a critical nature. The ingathering of such a crop as hay is very different from work in a factory and from other kinds of manual labour, inasmuch as time is of such extreme importance.

Then, my Lords, I should like, if I may, to supplement the noble Duke's Question, and to ask whether there is not now, as the law stands, some power whereby boys attending an elementary school may be granted leave of absence for some definite time, under proper conditions, in order that they may assist in important agricultural work, such as the ingathering of crops, hay-harvest, and the like. I have endeavoured to look into this subject, but it is so very complicated as to be beyond my powers to do justice to it. I believe, however, it is true that there was a clause in the Act of 1876 which, under certain circumstances and certain conditions, permitted children of a certain age to leave school temporarily for this specific purpose. As your Lordships will see, this is slightly different from what is contemplated in the noble Duke's Question, viz., the closing of the whole school. It has not yet been mentioned, but it is possible that an objection of a practical nature might be raised to the closing of the whole school for the benefit—although that benefit is great and probably well recognised—of a comparatively small number of children. It seems to me that if the provision to which I have referred is still in force, it would enable the difficulty to be got over. In any subsequent Amendment of the Education Act, such as is sometimes adumbrated, I think this would be an extremely important point to bring forward.

I must apologise for thus taking up the time of your Lordships' House at this late hour, and especially for addressing a Question of which I have been unable to give notice, but it seemed to me that it was an important point that ought to be cleared up, and that it might possibly afford a means out of the difficulty which the noble Duke has touched upon in his Question.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY): My Lords, I cannot for a moment say that I regret the Question put by the noble Duke. He has delivered to your Lordships a speech of a most practical character, and one which, I think, represents the views of a great number of agriculturists in all parts of the country. He has not in the least overrated the difficulties which exist in obtaining labour in agricultural districts, nor has he, as I gather from the inquiries I have made since he put down his Question, exaggerated in any degree the desire which exists in agricultural districts that the children should be available to a greater extent than is now customary, in order that, in the various ways in which it would be possible for children educated in the public elementary schools to do, they might assist those who till the land. I therefore welcome the Question of my noble friend. It is unnecessary for me to follow him through his speech, because I entirely agree with the view he has put forward as to the condition of agriculture, which he knows so well, and with which in many districts I am thoroughly acquainted myself.

I think, however, there is a certain amount of misapprehension, or rather, if I might use the expression, a certain want of knowledge concerning the various Education Acts which have from time to time been passed through Parliament. I do not for one moment wonder at it. To my mind Acts of Parliament are extremely difficult even for experts to understand, and, therefore, it is only natural that in the country districts, where these Acts are not studied so closely as we study them in Parliament, there should exist in the minds of agriculturists an idea which is not altogether in accordance with the Act, and certainly not in accordance with the intention of those who were responsible for the framing of the Act. The Question of my noble friend is of great importance, and I am very anxious that what I have described as the misapprehension which perhaps exists in the rural districts should be entirely cleared away with regard to this matter. I have, therefore, given great consideration to the question, and after consultation with my advisers at the Board of Education, have come to the conclusion that it is advisable that I should, on this occasion, point out to your Lordships, and, through your Lordships, to the country, and especially the agricultural districts as a whole, what is the present condition of affairs in regard to the possibility of children working either in the hay fields or in corn harvest.

As the question is of a complicated character I will ask your Lordships to allow me to do a thing that is not generally permitted in your Lordships' House, and that is to read the views which the Board hold on this matter. There is no doubt that it is convenient, and in many cases desirable, that school holidays should coincide with the harvest times, and the specific Question which I propose now to answer is whether the managers of a public elementary school have power to close the school for a fortnight in time of hay-harvest. Before the passing of the Act of 1902 the school boards and school attendance committees had power to regulate by by-law the time during which children were to attend school. I think I can say that in almost every single case the by-laws on this point left to the managers of voluntary schools complete freedom to arrange holidays as they wished, because the common form of by-law on this head merely required the children to attend school during the time when the school was open for the instruction of children of a like age. Subject, then, to the limits imposed by the Code as to the number of times a school had to be open in a year in order to earn a grant, it would appear that before the passing of the Act of 1902 the managers of a voluntary school had power to close the school in the manner suggested by the Question which has been put to me.

The case, however, is somewhat different since the Education Act of 1902 has come into force, because Section 7, Sub-section (1), of that Act makes it a condition incumbent upon a school not provided by the local education authority, that is to say, upon a voluntary school, that the managers of the school shall carry out any directions of the local education authority as to the secular instruction to be given in the school. In the view of the Board of Education a direction as to the times when vacation should be given would be a direction as to secular instruction within the meaning of the sub-section I have quoted, and, therefore, it would follow that the managers are not free to fix holidays if by so doing they come into conflict with any directions on the point that the local education authority may have given. But, subject to the consent of the authority being obtained, it would appear to be open to the managers to arrange the holidays in the manner indicated in the Question which the noble Duke has put to me. The question of the employment of children is one of great complexity, but I am advised that the employment of children in agricultural work during holiday times would appear to be regulated by the Employment of Children Act, 1903. Under that Act the local authority may make by-laws for regulating the employment of children under fourteen years of age. The Board of Education have no information as to the proceedings which have been taken by the various local authorities under this Act.

It would appear, therefore, that where the local education authority do not object the managers may give holidays in the time of hay-harvest; and if the local authority for the Employment of Children Act, which is generally the same as the local education authority for Part III. of the Education Act, 1902, have made no by-laws restricting the employment of children in the various operations of the hay-harvest, there would appear to be nothing to prevent the employment of the scholars in the manner suggested in the Question. I hope it is plain that so far as the Board of Education is concerned no obstacle is placed in the way of employing scholars in this way. The matter is practically in the hands of the local education authority, and if, in rural districts, any difficulty has been experienced in this matter since the passing of the Education Act of 1902, it would appear that the county councils are in a position to remove the difficulties.

I have read that because I am very anxious that it should be understood throughout the country that so far as the Board of Education is concerned the power of arranging holidays for the purposes which have been put forward really rests with the local education authority, who may if they choose allow managers of schools some discretion in the matter.

Then my noble friend Lord Zouche asked whether it would be possible for individual children to be given holiday from school in order to participate in any particular work. My noble friend stated that in the Act of 1876 there was such a power given.

*Lord ZOUCHE of HARYNGWORTH: I said that I so understood it. It is a complicated measure, but I think that is the gist it.

*The Marques of LONDONDERRY: I must ask my noble friend to allow me to answer him from memory, and therefore I speak subject to correction. I have had no opportunity of looking up the matter, but so far as my memory serves me I think my noble friend is correct. The Act of 1876 did give power under certain conditions for individual children to be taken from school for the purpose of engaging in particular work, but it has been considered that the power was practically taken away by an Act passed, I think, in 1880. That is the reason why, at the present moment, if my memory serves me, it is not possible for individual children to be taken away, and the whole school must have a holiday. If my noble friend wishes to have any further information I shall be glad to communicate with him privately, or if he would put down another Question I would answer it in your Lordships' House, as at the moment I can only give him what, to the best of my recollection, is the state of the case.

TRAWLING IN NON-TERRITORIAL WATERS.

Lord HENEAGE: I desire to ask His Majesty's Government whether they have decided to submit to the Law Officers of England, Scotland, and Ireland the question whether it is competent for the Scotch Fishery Board under the Herring Fishery (Scotland) Act, 1889, to make a by-law which would have the effect of preventing English or Irish fishermen from trawling in non-territorial waters, and if so, by which Department the case is being prepared, and when the opinion may be expected.

Lord WINDSOR: In the absence of my noble friend Lord Wolverton, who represents the Board of Agriculture in this House, I have the Answer to my noble friend's Question. I am informed that the Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The case is being prepared by the legal adviser to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Board will use their best endeavours to expedite its preparation. The President of the Board of Agriculture hopes that an opinion will be obtained at an early date.

Lord HENEAGE: Perhaps it will be for the convenience of the House if I state that after the reply of my noble friend I shall not proceed with my Motion on Monday with reference to the Moray Firth.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That he had received from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the following translation of a note which had been addressed to him by the Spanish Ambassador at this Court—

Spanish Embassy, London,
23rd *June*, 1905.

My Lord,—I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, at the sitting of the 16th instant, the Senate of the Kingdom unanimously voted a Resolution giving most hearty thanks to the British Nation for the sentiments of sympathy and sincere enthusiasm which they showed towards His Majesty the King, my august Sovereign, during his stay in this country. I have pleasure in bringing this to Your Excellency's knowledge, and venture to ask you to be good enough to communicate this testimony to the Parliamentary Representatives of the British Nation.—I avail, etc.,

(*Signed*) L. POLO DE BERNABE.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G., &c.

Ordered, That the said Message be entered on the Journals of the House.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 6th July, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [Lords]. A Verbal Amendment made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Mansfield Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill. As amended, considered To be read the third time to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP L).

Sir ALEXANDER BROWN reported from the Committee on Group L of Private Bills; That the parties promoting the Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords] had stated that the evidence of James Lyon Whittle, Town Clerk of Warrington, was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to more that the said James Lyon Whittle do attend the said Committee on Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That James Lyon Whittle do attend the Committee on Group L of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP L).

Sir ALEXANDER BROWN reported from the Committee on Group L of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Llandrindod Wells Urban District Council Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Matlock Bath Improvement Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP J).

Colonel WELBY reported from the Committee on Group J of Private Bills; That the parties opposing the Local Government Provisional Order (No. 12) (Essex and Hertford Order) Bill had stated that the evidence of George Rust, Little Hallingbury; Robert Mallam, The School, Farnham; and William Joshua Thomas Welch, Cambridge Road, Stansted, was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that their attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said George Rust, Robert Mallam, and William Joshua Thomas Welch do attend the said Committee on Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That George Rust, Robert Mallam, and William Joshua Thomas Welch do attend the Committee on Group J of Private Bills on Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Hitchin and District Gas Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Judicature (Ireland) Acts, 1877 to 1897, and Section 6 of The Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and the Law relating to Bankrupts, and to the constitution of certain Election Courts in Ireland." [Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for authorising local authorities to make by-laws respecting the exhibition of Advertisements." [Advertisements Regulation Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Company, for the construction of a Tramroad; and for other purposes." [Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Bill [Lords.]

Oldham and Saddleworth District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Evidence taken before the Select Committee of this House on the Warrington Corporation Bill, 1899, be referred to the Committee on the Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [Lords].—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Liverpool, etc.) Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [Lords]; Metropolitan and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Water and Gas Bill [Lords]; Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Petition from South Shields, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (TELEPHONE AGREEMENT).

Petition from Nottingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

STREET BETTING BILL.

Petition from Reading, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Copy presented, of General Report and Statistics for the year 1903, Part IV., Colonial and Foreign Statistics; Statistics relating to Persons employed, Output, and Accidents at Mines and Quarries in the British Colonies and in Foreign Countries [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INEBRIATES ACTS (INSPECTOR'S REPORT) (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report of the Inspector for Scotland, under the Inebriates Acts, for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3428, 3429, 3431, and 3432 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Lunacy. Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1905 [by Act].

PASSENGERS TO PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.

Return ordered, "of the Numbers and Nationalities of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe in each month from June to December, 1905, distinguishing the principal Countries in which the Passengers contracted to land."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 229.]

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, local authorities in Scotland have allocated and applied funds to the purposes of Technical Education during the year ending the 15th day of May, 1905, under the following Acts: The Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890; The Education and Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1892; The Technical Schools (Scotland) Act, 1887; The Technical Instruction Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1892; and Public Libraries Acts."—(*The Lord-Advocate.*)

STANDING COMMITTEES (TITLES OF BILLS).

Return ordered, "showing the Titles of those Bills which have been committed to the Standing Committees for Law and Trade respectively, in each year since 1901, the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; and the further stages through which they passed after Committee (in the same form as and in continuation of Return No. 92, of Session 1902):—

Law.

Title of Bill.	Days in Committee.	Report.	Considered or amended.	Third Reading.	Royal Assent.	Remarks.

Trade.

Title of Bill.	Days in Committee.	Report.	Considered or amended.	Third Reading.	Royal Assent.	Remarks.

—(*Mr. John Ellis.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

The Humble Estate, County Waterford.

Mr. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether originating applications have yet been lodged with the Estates Commissioners for the sale by Sir John Nugent Humble and Charles Nugent Humble of their lands in county Waterford, and, if so, when; whether the Estates Commissioners received in April last a joint application from three former tenants, Mrs. Margaret Morrissey, Miss Mary Kiely, and Mrs. Johanna Coleman in reference to these lands; what steps, if any, have been taken with regard to the representations made by these evicted tenants; and whether the matter will receive the immediate attention of the Estates Commissioners, having regard to the nature of the representations made and to the desirability of restoring these tenants to their holdings or other similar holdings on these lands.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The reply to the first inquiry is in the negative. Applications for reinstatement have been received from the former tenants named, and these will be considered when the estate comes before the Commissioners.

Cork Junction Railways Bill—Treasury Grant.

Mr. O'SHEE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any promise or undertaking has been given to the promoters of the Cork Junction Railways Bill or to anyone on their behalf by any member of His Majesty's Government as to the whole or any part of the sum of £93,000 which the Treasury in 1898 gave authority to the Hybrid Committee on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill to allocate for some project beneficial to the South of Ireland, and which was allocated for the purpose of having the proposed Cork and Fermoy Direct Railway constructed subject to certain conditions which have not been fulfilled; whether he is aware that the only alternative proposal before the Hybrid Committee for the allocation of the £93,000 was that made by the letter of 25th April, 1898, from the chairman of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company to the then Chief Secretary for Ireland, by which the company offered to wipe out the total guarantee of £14,000 annually payable by the ratepayers of the county and city of Waterford if the Treasury would forego the £93,000; and whether he will recommend the Treasury to make no allocation of this amount without due consideration for this alternative.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I must refer to my reply to the Question put to me on Tuesday last† by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. The matter has now assumed a new phase by reason of the action of the Committee in rejecting the Bill, and will have to be considered afresh.

Brandfort National Congress—Reply of Home Government.

Mr. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any answer has been given to the resolutions passed by the National Congress held at Brandfort on December 12th, 1904, and handed to the Lieutenant-Governor for transmission to His Majesty the King.

(*Answered by Secretary Lyttelton.*) A formal answer will be given very shortly. Many of the points raised have been the subject of discussion at the Inter-Colonial Council.

Increase of Vivisection Experiments.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the fact that the total number of vivisection experiments in 1905 exceeded those of 1904 by 13,478 experiments, he will cause inquiry to be made into this matter with a view to the abolition of vivisection.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I must point out to the hon. Member that this increase is almost entirely accounted for by the additional inoculations, hypodermic injections, and feeding experiments that have taken place. The total increase in all other kinds of experiments was only forty-five. These inoculations, which numbered 30,346 out of the total of 32,562 experiments performed in the year, in no case involved a serious operation; and a very large proportion of them were performed on behalf of public or local authorities. Constant attention is given to the matter, but I am not prepared to take action in the direction suggested.

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† See page 992.

Markyate Motor-Car Fatality.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the case of a motor-car driver convicted at the Hertford Assizes of manslaughter, the car bore a number plate in conformity with the rules of the Local Government Board; whether any judicial investigation has taken place, or will take place, as to the circumstances under which such non-compliance, if any, arose and the responsibility therefor; and whether the police are or will be instructed to enforce strict observance everywhere of rules intended to secure, if possible, the identification of motor vehicles, and take proceedings for any breaches of the law known to them.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) On inquiry of the chief constable of Herefordshire I learn that the number plates of the car in question were of a gray colour, calculated to make them difficult to read, instead of being black as required by the regulations. These plates were, I understand, produced in Court, and are now in the hands of the police. The Act makes the driver the person responsible for the use of such plates; and the only reason why it was considered inadvisable to take proceedings against the driver for this breach of the regulations was because of the more serious charge of manslaughter, of which he has now been convicted. I have no reason to doubt that the police are using every effort to secure compliance with the regulations, and I do not think it is necessary for me to issue, or to recommend the issue of, any fresh instructions on the subject.

Civil Servants Attending Volunteer Camps.

MR. BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the Treasury Minute which grants part payment to Civil servants for leave taken for the purpose of attending certain Volunteer camps when held for the extended period of a fortnight, he will give a like privilege to those Civil servants who attend camps of one week's duration; and, further, whether he will so arrange that leave taken for the purpose of attending such camps shall not be included in the fortnight's leave now allowed.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) I am unable to recommend any extension of the privileges already enjoyed by Civil servants attending Volunteer camps.

Appointment of Irish Resident Magistrates.

MR. FIELD: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether the Government will consider the advisability of not appointing English naval and military officers without knowledge of the law to be resident magistrates in Ireland, but appoint duly qualified Irish lawyers in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The Government are not prepared to exclude officers of the Navy or Army from these appointments. Experience has shown the previous training of these gentlemen, including the hearing of and determining upon evidence at Courts-martial, to be a qualification for the position of resident magistrate, and some of the most efficient magistrates have been selected from those services.

Pollution of Dartford Water Supply.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the medical officer of health has reported to the Dartford Rural District Council that the pumping station at Darenth, Kent, sucks the adjacent surface springs to such an extent that they ebb and flow according to the pumping; that this water must be liable to pollution, but that the water company deny this; and when the inquiry into the liability of this source of supply to pollution, asked for by twenty resident householders on the 22nd March, 1904, will take place.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I understand that the medical officer of health has made a report to the effect referred to. When the undertaking of the water company passed to the Metropolian Water Board the Local Government Board called the attention of the Water Board to this matter. The Water Board has made a series of tests, which have just been concluded, and I am now awaiting a report as to the result.

Established and Assistant Postmen.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if it is necesssary that a certain number of established postmen must be employed at an office before the auxiliary or assistant postmen employed thereat, and doing duties of less than seven hours daily, are eligible to claim a certificate of qualification from the Civil Service Commissioners.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) There is no fixed proportion between the number of established postmen at an office and the number of assistant postmen or auxiliaries. In arranging the establishment of an office, however, an effort is made to secure that the numbers shall be such as to admit of the appointment of the assistant postmen to the establishment within a reasonable time. Civil Service certificates are obtained for assistant postmen but not for auxiliaries.

Workmen's Trains.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade, whether his attention has been directed to applications under the Cheap Trains Act, made by the London County Council to the Board on the 15th August, 1903, and the 28th January, 1904, with regard to the service of workmen's trains on the Whitechapel and Bow, and the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railways, and to the fact that an inquiry on these applications was held on the 5th and 21st November, 1904; whether the Board have yet received the report of their inspector who held the inquiry; when the Board's decision on the applications is likely to be made known; and whether, considering that the overcrowding complained of on the workmen's trains on these railways is undisputed, he will undertake that the Board's decision on the applications is not further delayed.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The report of the officer by whom this inquiry was held has been received, and the Board have been in communication with the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Company thereon. Some improvement in the workmen's train service has already been effected, and the Board of Trade hope to be in a position to give their final decision in the matter very shortly.

Subway at Trafalgar Square.

SIR WALTER PLUMMER (Newcastle-on-Tyne): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether his attention has been drawn to the Bill now before Parliament for constructing, among other things, a subway commencing on the south side of Charing Cross and terminating near the south-east corner of the base of the Nelson Monument; and whether His Majesty's Office of Works can do anything to prevent this further encroachment upon Trafalgar Square, which has already been disfigured by the subway which has for so long been in course of construction, and is at last approaching completion.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The Answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The plans and drawings have all been seen and approved by the First Commissioner, who is satisfied that no disfigurement will be caused; and the encroachment referred to is small in comparison with the advantage to the public of the subway.

Revenue derived from Taxation of Food and Drink.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the total amount of revenue derived in the United Kingdom from the taxation, both Excise and Customs duties, on all kinds of food and drink, excluding the corn tax, during the last twenty years; and also to state what this amount would represent per head of the population.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)—

Year ended 31st March.	Population of the United Kingdom.	Revenue derived from Duties on Articles of Food and Drink, excluding Corn.			Revenue per head of Population.		
		Customs.	Excise.	Total.			
		£	£	£	£	s.	d.
1886	36,015,601	10,377,736	21,546,813	31,924,549		17	8·7
1887	36,313,582	10,719,044	21,350,482	32,069,526		17	7·9
1888	36,599,143	10,803,885	21,741,481	32,545,366		17	9·4
1889	36,881,271	11,055,818	21,650,495	32,706,313		17	8·8
1890	37,178,929	11,332,454	23,271,937	34,604,391		18	7·3
1891	37,484,764	10,089,382	25,257,271	35,346,653		18	10·3
1892	37,802,381	10,043,036	26,333,651	36,376,687		19	2·9
1893	38,133,817	9,637,841	25,891,394	35,529,235		18	7·6
1894	38,489,806	9,723,499	25,885,792	35,609,291		18	6·0
1895	38,858,306	9,863,306	26,497,551	36,360,857		18	5·0
1896	39,220,114	10,164,579	27,511,639	37,676,218		19	5·0
1897	39,597,843	10,405,292	28,138,344	38,543,636		19	5·6
1898	39,985.831	10,512,901	29,046,401	39,559,302		19	9·4
1899	40,379,095	10,713,951	30,054,391	40,768,342	1	0	2·3
1900	40,772,365	12,332,737	32,649,430	44,982,167	1	2	0·7
1901	41,152,471	13,585,715	34,065,606	47,651,321	1	3	1·8
1902	41,550,773	19,307,391	32,274,890	51,582,281	1	4	9·9
1903	41,961,199	17,799,800	32,829,002	50,628,802	1	4	1·5
1904	42,371,216	19,274,905	32,213,736	51,488,641	1	4	3·6
1905	42,789,552	20,500,097	31,336,080	51,836,177	1	4	2·7

The Customs figures represent the duties on foreign beer, chicory and coffee, cocoa and chocolate, dried fruits, foreign spirits (except perfumed and methylated), tea, and wine; also sugar molasses, glucose, and articles containing sugar or other sweetening matter (dutiable since 1901). The Excise figures represent the duties on beer, spirits, glucose, saccharin, and chicory of British manufacture.

The late Dewan of Dhar's Estate.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the fact that Bapu Raghunath, who at the time of his death in 1837 was Dewan of Dhar, and in recognition of his services to the British Government was in the enjoyment of a grant of property in the State of Dhar in perpetuity to himself and descendants, will he ascertain from the Dhar State under what circumstances the forfeiture of the property belonging to Ramchandra Rao, one of Bapu's six sons, for alleged complicity in the Mutiny, has been held to include the property belonging to Bapu's other sons; and will he bring under the notice of the Dhar State the claims made to this property by their descendants,—viz., Krishna Rao Raghunath and Shanka Rao Bhagwant.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I must again refer the hon. Member to the Answer given by my predecessor in office to his Question on the 12th May, 1902,† when he was informed that the Government of India agreed that it was impossible to restore the confiscated estates to the family. I see no reason, as I informed the hon. Member on the 9th June, 1904,‡ to interfere with the discretion of the Native State in the matter.

Representative Assembly for State of Travancore.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the rules for the formation of a Representative Assembly for the State of Travancore, under which ninety of the 100 members will be elected by the people; and whether he will recommend to the Government of India a similar measure for the administration of British districts.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I have seen in a newspaper a report of the proceedings at the inaugural meeting of the Travancore Representative Assembly in October last; but I have no official information on the subject, and I do not know the facts as to its numbers or composition. I am not prepared to recommend the creation of representative assemblies for the administration of districts in British India.

Appointments Reserved for Europeans and Eurasians in Office of the Board of Revenue, India.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to a recent notification in the *Bengal Government Gazette*, stating that 30 per cent. of the appointments on pay of Rs. 40 per month and upwards, in the Office of the Board of Revenue, will be reserved for Europeans and Eurasians; whether he will disallow this notification in view of the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1833 and the Queen's Proclamation of 1858; whether the services of qualified Europeans can be obtained in Bengal for Rs. 40 per month; and whether similar rules in favour of Europeans exist as regards the establishments of other departments in the Government service.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I have seen the notification referred to in the Question; it applies to the Office of the Board of Revenue a principle which, in September last, was publicly announced as applicable to several other offices. I do not consider that it conflicts with the provisions of the Act and Proclamation mentioned in the Question. The Europeans and Eurasians contemplated in the rule are presumably themselves natives of India, and for certain duties possess qualifications which are valuable to Government. The limit of pay necessary to secure the assistance of persons of this class is a matter for the consideration of the Government in India.

Belfast Maternity Hospital and the Central Midwives Board.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the Central Midwives Board of England have refused to place upon the roll of certified midwives nurses trained at the Belfast Maternity Hospital previous to March 31st, 1905, while they have placed on this roll nurses trained under similar conditions and up to the same date at the Dublin Maternity Hospitals, at the Cork Maternity Hospital, and at the maternity hospital at Limerick; if he can say what are the grounds for the action of the Central Midwives Board in the matter; and if he will take steps to have the nurses in question placed in the same position as other nurses of similar training.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Central Midwives Board is constituted under the Midwives Act, 1902, and the rules of the Board are subject to the approval of the Privy Council for England. The Irish Government have no functions in this matter, but I have been furnished by the Lord President of the Council with a statement on the question which has been prepared by the Central Midwives Board. I gather from this statement that the purpose for which certain hospitals in Ireland were recognised, and the Belfast Maternity Hospital was not so recognised owing to its failure to apply in time, ceased to exist on the 1st April last, when the temporary provision (Section 2) of the Act, relating to existing midwives, expired.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cvii., 1342.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxxxv., 1211.

Advances under the Irish Land Act, 1903.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, (1) whether he can state the amount of the advances applied for under the Land Act of 1903 up to 30th June; (2) the amount actually paid to vendors of land up to the same date; (3) the amount paid to the Bank of Ireland to the credit of estates in which the sale has not been completed; (4) the working capital at the disposal of the Estates Commissioners; (5) and if he proposes any plan by which the block can be relieved and the Act be allowed to work.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) (1) The amount of advances applied for to the Estates Commissioners is estimated at £26,896,103, and, in addition, pending applications to the Land Commission, including sales originating in the Land Judge's Court, represent about £300,000, the total amount, therefore, being approximately £27,200,000. (2) The amount of purchase money distributed in cases in which the Estates Commissioners have made advances is £4,953,468. In other cases, including money paid to the Land Judge for distribution, £553,786 has been advanced, most of which has been distributed. (3) The total amount advanced under the Act of 1903, and paid into the Bank of Ireland by the Land Commission, including the Estates Commissioners, for all sales is £7,233,527. In practically all such cases the land or holdings sold have been vested subject to the purchase annuities. The amount of purchase money which has been advanced in all cases and has not yet been distributed is, in round numbers, £1,700,000, but this is being dealt with day by day on the allocation of funds. (4) If by working capital at the disposal of the Estates Commissioners the reserve fund under Section 43 of the Act of 1903 is referred to, it is understood that that fund amounts to £250,000 or thereabouts, of which £8,026 has been drawn for improvement of estates up to the present. (5) This question is receiving careful consideration.

Cancer Operations in Irish Workhouses.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many operations for cancer have taken place in workhouses in Ireland; and how many of them have terminated in death during the eight years ending 31st March, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The records of the Local Government Board do not afford information on this subject.

Beresford Estate, County Carlow.

MR. HAMMOND (Carlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether provision is being made, pending the completion of purchase, for the reinstatement of the evicted tenants of the Beresford Estate, Carlow county; and if the former tenants of the Kilcloney Farm, Borris, will be restored to their holding.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The applications of certain evicted tenants on this estate have been inquired into and reported on, but the Commissioners have not yet come to a decision in the matter.

Land Purchase in County Cork.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when the Congested Districts Board will send the clerk of the works to the Bird, Beamish, O'Donovan, and Bandon Estates, situate in the Durrus and Kilcrohane districts.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) These estates are in charge of one of the Board's inspectors, who was recently transferred to Tralee. Clerks of works will be appointed when the estates have been legally vested in the Board.

Cape Colony and Colonial Industries.

MR. BENN: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the Report of the Select Committee of the Cape Colony on Colonial Industries (May, 1905), which recommends a general increase of tariffs, including the raising of the duty on imported English furniture from seven and a-half per cent. to twenty-five per cent.; and whether he will take any steps to direct the attention of the Colonial Legislature to the damage to an English industry if these proposals are carried.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I have seen the Report referred to. I do not propose to take the action suggested. The proposals could not be carried out except with the concurrence of the other parties to the South African Customs Convention.

Soldiers in Hospital.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for War what percentage of total strength of such of the battalions serving at home of the following regiments were in hospital during the year 1904: Royal Scots, Royal Highlanders, Manchester Regiment, Devonshire Regiment, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Royal Irish Rifles, Royal Munster Fusiliers, and of the 1st Grenadier Guards, 1st Scots Guards, 1st Coldstream Guards, and Irish Guards.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The required information is as follows:—

Regiment.	Percentage of constantly sick.
1st Battalion Grenadier Guards	9·12
1st Battalion Coldstream Guards	3·96
1st Battalion Scots Guards	4·02
Irish Guards	5·09
1st Battalion Royal Scots	4·09
2nd Battalion Devonshire Regiment	2·62
1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers	1·98
1st Battalion Royal Highlanders	2·96
2nd Battalion Manchester Regiment	1·94
4th Battalion Manchester Regiment	3·06
2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles	4·21
2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers	†1.41

Army Marksmen.

COLONEL DENNY: To ask the Secretary of State for War what are the relative percentages of marksmen, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class shots, among the trained soldiers of the following regiments, home battalions only, for the year 1904: Royal Scots, Royal Highlanders, Manchester Regiment, Devonshire Regiment, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Royal Irish Rifles, Royal Munster Fusiliers, and of the 1st Grenadier Guards, 1st Scots Guards, 1st Coldstream Guards, and Irish Guards.

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† For the period January to April, 1904, after which the battalion proceeded on foreign service.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The required information is as follows:—

	Trained Men. Percentage of Marksmen, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class shots.			
	M.	1.	2.	3.
1st Battalion Grenadier Guards -	12·5	29·8	43·2	14·3
1st Battalion Coldstream Guards -	12·3	30·7	42·6	14·2
1st Battalion Scots Guards - -	9·6	28·6	40·3	21·3
1st Battalion Irish Guards - -	2·0	12·0	42·6	43·3
1st Battalion Royal Scots - -	9·0	25·8	40·3	24·7
2nd Battalion Devonshire Regiment	10·4	38·1	38·5	12·8
1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers	4·2	21·9	46·9	26·7
1st Battalion Royal Highlanders -	13·6	38·1	36·5	11·6
2nd Battalion Manchester Regiment	8·9	25·9	45·7	19·4
4th Battalion Manchester Regiment	9·0	24·1	44·1	22·6
2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles -	3·0	16·1	42·2	38·5
Royal Munster Fusiliers - - -	Both Regular Battalions of this Regiment were stationed without the United Kingdom in 1904.			

Proposed Naval Reserve in the Islands of Skye and Barra.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the Admiralty have yet come to a decision in regard to the organisation of the Naval Reserve; and if there is any prospect of the proposed batteries in the Islands of Skye and Barra being proceeded with at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Arthur Lee.*) It is not possible at the present moment to furnish any information beyond that contained in the Answer given to a similar Question which the hon. Member asked on the 28th February† last.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

War Stores Inquiry—Repatriation Department Accounts.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay the detailed accounts of the Repatriation Department as a Parliamentary Paper; whether he can say if any contractor or contractors who purchased stores from the South African Military Sales Department resold the material purchased to the Repatriation Department; and whether he can give the name or names of such contractors, if any, with particulars of the transactions involved.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington): I have not received these detailed accounts, and do not propose to lay them before Parliament. I would point out that these accounts have undergone local inspection on the part of the Comptroller and Auditor-General in connection with the free grant of £3,000,000 to the burghers from the Imperial Parliament in addition to the local colonial audit. The Comptroller and Auditor-General's Report presented to Parliament on February 17th of this year contains the ollowing sentence at page 480:—"The local inspection of the accounts proved that all expenditure had been duly authorised, and further that the colonial auditors had exercised a complete and satisfactory check over the records showing the receipts and payments of the Repatriation Departments." I have now learned by telegraph, in reply to an inquiry, that in one case the Repatriation Department purchased hay from Wilson and Worthington which that firm had previously bought from the Army. The hay was bought at Maitland, Cape Town, and sold to the Repatriation Department, delivered at Pretoria West Station. These are all the particulars I have received.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 1468.

DR. MACNAMARA; Can the right hon. Gentleman say what the prices were?

MR. LYTTELTON: I have given the hon. Member all the particulars I have.

DR. MACNAMARA: I would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the expenditure of these £3,000,000 is not to come before Parliament in any way whatever?

MR. LYTTELTON: If it is desired to raise the subject on the Colonial Vote I am sure it would be quite germane.

DR. MACNAMARA: Is the Colonial Secretary not prepared to lay before Parliament any statement giving a detailed account of the expenditure of this money.

MR. LYTTELTON: No. Sir, it is not usual to do so. The accounts have been thoroughly audited out in South Africa.

SIR. H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman says that these accounts have been audited in South Africa. But it is something more than a mere question of audit. It is a question of informing the House of Commons how the money has been expended.

MR LYTTELTON: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will put down a Question on the subject.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Is the House of Commons, which has voted these £3,000,000, not to receive some information as to how it has been expended?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will not the audit to which the right hon. Gentleman refers really explain the expenditure of the money?

MR. LYTTELTON: I think so.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would make an inquiry from Lord Milner with reference to this contract—if he knew where Lord Milner was?

MR. LYTTELTON replied that he had no desire, and no intention himself, to refer any point to Lord Milner, but if the hon. Member wished some definite matter referred to Lord Milner he would consider it.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will the right hon. Gentleman indicate how a Member of this House may ascertain how this money, voted by the Imperial Parliament, has been expended?

MR. LYTTELTON: I believe, in fact I have no doubt, that the accounts have been fully delivered in South Africa, and I imagine that, without making them a Parliamentary Paper, they are accessible.

DR. MACNAMARA: Do I understand that the right hon. Gentleman suggests that I am to go to South Africa to see them?

SIR A. HAYTER (Walsall) was understood to say that the whole of the accounts had been audited by the local auditors and by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, who had given a Report to the Public Accounts Committee. That Report would be laid before the House.

Danish Agriculture.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Report of the Scottish Agricultural Commission upon farming and land settlement in Denmark has been brought to his notice; and if, in view of the importance of land and labour settlement in this country, he will include inquiry into the said Report in the terms of reference to the Departmental Committee which is to be set up to consider Mr. Rider Haggard's Report.

MR. LYTTELTON: The terms of reference to the Departmental Committee will be as follows:—"To consider the suggestions made in Mr. Rider Haggard's Report on the Salvation Army Colonies in the United States and at Hadleigh, and to advise the Government whether any steps can usefully be taken for promoting agricultural settlements of persons taken from the cities of this country either in the British Colonies or in the United Kingdom." The attention of the Committee will be called to the Report which the hon. Member has been good enough to send to me, with any other Reports germane to the subject.

South African War—Treatment of the Sick and Wounded.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will have prepared and will lay a Memorandum showing how far the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1900 on the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the South African campaign have been or will be carried out.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): I shall be happy to furnish the Memorandum asked for by the hon. Member.

War Supplies and Customs Duties.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether supplies sent to South Africa for the purposes of the war paid Customs duties; and, if so, to what amount.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Supplies sent to South Africa and consumed by the Army did not pay Customs duty. It is not possible to state the amount so paid at the present time. On certain surplus supplies sold to merchants, etc., in South Africa after the war Customs duties have been paid.

Military Bands at Religious Ceremonials.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Down, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Roman Catholic authorities responsible for the celebration of the festival of Corpus Christi in Arundel have arranged for the bands of two of His Majesty's regiments to take part in the procession along the public highway; and, if so, whether sanction will be given to this arrangement.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The matter is one which was dealt with by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, without reference to the War Office, but I understand that permission was given to the band of the Queen's Regiment to take part in the procession referred to, which took place in June in Arundel Park. There is nothing in the Regulations which would prohibit this. I do not, however, consider that the practice is a desirable one, and the Army Council has expressed its opinion that it should not be repeated. The General Officer Commanding has been so informed.

MR. SLOAN: Do I understand it will not be repeated?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I cannot make any more definite statement than is contained in the Answer I have just given to the hon. Member. My words were that the practice would not be repeated.

Wrexham Barracks.

MR. GEORGE KENYON (Denbigh Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is in contemplation to remove the officers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other regiments from the military centre at Wrexham to Shrewsbury: whether this is to be followed by the abolition of Wrexham as a military centre; whether he is aware that the barracks at Wrexham have only been erected a few years, at a great cost, when that town was selected by the military authorities as being the most accessible for the counties comprised in the district; and whether he will reconsider the whole question.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Shrewsbury has been selected as the headquarters of the Welsh Border group of regimental districts. Any changes in the quartering of regiments which may follow upon this decision could only take place after the erection of depots.

MR. KENYON: Will the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to remember, when making any changes in regard to Welsh regiments, that Shrewsbury is not in Wales at present?

Military Prisoner at Maryborough.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, when the Army Council considered the case of Thomas Leonard, now imprisoned in Maryborough under a life sentence for desertion, the Council was aware that the desertion took place more than a year before the outbreak of the war, and that Leonard, who was employed at the mines, was commandeered by the Boers on the outbreak of the war; and, if not, will he put this fact before the Council and ask for a reconsideration of Leonard's case; whether he can explain what circumstances influenced the decision of the Army Council in ordering the discharge two years ago from Maryborough Prison of a man who belonged to the same regiment as Leonard, and who was sentenced to death for the murder of a soldier in South Africa during the late war, while refusing to discharge Leonard, who has now been over five years in prison for desertion.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I regret that I am unable to add to the information which I have already given to the hon. Member, both by Answer and by letter, regarding this case. The decision of the Army Council which has been communicated to the hon. Member will be adhered to.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Has the right hon. Gentleman asked the Council if it was aware at the time of the trial that this man deserted a year before the war broke out?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, Sir.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: And what was the answer?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I sent all the information to the hon. Member.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I have not received that information. I shall put another Question down.

Government Orders to Private Firms.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that it has hitherto been the practice to give one-half of the orders for bayonets required for the Army to private firms; and whether, out of 12,200 bayonets or thereabouts now so required, he will see that the private firms obtain their proper share.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Will the hon. Member please refer to my reply to a similar Question yesterday† from the hon. Member for Central Sheffield.

MR. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): I trust the right hon Gentleman will bear in mind that 19,000 bayonets have already been turned out from Enfield this year.

Musketry Practice at St. Mary's Island.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that, during a recent musketry practice at St. Mary's Island, a fisherman was dangerously wounded whilst following his daily occupation; whether he has received a copy of a resolution passed at a public meeting specially called for the purpose of protesting against the position of this range; if so, can he state what steps he intends to take in order to protect these fishermen in the course of their occupation.

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† See page 1121.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, has reported that a fishermen was shot through the arm at musketry practice; the wound is believed not to be dangerous. The resolution passed at a public meeting has been received by telegram; a Court of inquiry has been ordered, and a full report will be forwarded to the War Office.

The Volunteer Vote.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I understand the Leader of the House cannot be present, and I will postpone the Question I had proposed to ask the right hon. Gentleman with reference to public business. There is one Question, however, to which I think it would be desirable that we should get an Answer—namely, whether the Government, recognising the intense interest felt in the present position of the Volunteers and the recent action in regard to them, will bring on the Volunteer Vote next Thursday.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington) said he was afraid he could not give the right hon. Gentleman an Answer now, because negotiations with the different Parties in the House were involved, but he would endeavour to settle the question that afternoon.

Financial Reforms at the War Office.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that Viscount Esher, Admiral Sir J. A. Fisher, and Sir George S. Clarke reported, in February, 1904, that the financial methods of the War Office do not conduce to economy in peace and directly promote waste in war, he can state what reforms, if any, in War Office financial administration have since been inaugurated.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT, Cheshire, Macclesfield): It is not easy to state in brief compass all the reforms which have been carried out in the financial arrangements of the War Office and the Army since the Report of Lord Esher's Committee. The following statement will, however, give a general idea of what has been done. Provision has been made for the financial service of the Army in the field as well as in peace, and a new department for Army Accounts has been created. A system of decentralised accounting has been instituted, carrying with it the redistribution and decentralisation of work and staff to military districts throughout the Empire. Under this system a financial branch forms part of the staff of each general officer commanding in the various districts and will proceed with him to the front in case of war. A thorough system of financial examination and review is now in operation in respect of all contracts, whether made at the War Office or in the military districts. The same system will operate in the field in the event of war. The separation of Army stores and the allotment thereof to the Quartermaster-General and the Master-General of the Ordnance, respectively, has been arranged for. Some of the Army Votes have had to be remodelled in a form acceptable to the Treasury and to Parliament. The Quartermaster-General and the Master-General of the Ordnance now administer the Votes for those services for which they are responsible, and have in their branches members of the Accounts Department to advise them in financial matters. A standing Army Finance Committee to watch expenditure has been constituted and a detailed rearrangement of staff and work both for finance and for accounting has been carried into effect.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether he understood the hon. Gentleman to say that the contract branch of the War Office had been broken up and distributed among the various commands.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I did not say that. General officers in a district have always made their own contracts, and they will do so still.

They will, however, have a finance branch as part of their staff, which will, in the event of war, accompany them to the front. In the War Department itself the making of contracts has been divided between the military members who are immediately concerned, subject to what, I think, is absolutely necessary financial review.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): Can the hon. Gentleman say what the additional cost of this new administration is likely to be.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I would not like to commit myself to saying whether there has been any considerable additional cost or if there has been, what it is. If the right hon. Gentleman desires the information I will endeavour to give it to him.

Lord Curzon and the Indian Military Command.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether Lord Curzon has informed the Home Government that, unless modifications are introduced to the orders issued regarding the military command in India, he will resign; and what answer, if any, has been given to these representations.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford). I have nothing to add to what I said on this subject on Thursday, 29th June.†

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: But I cannot remember these weighty, pompous, arrogant deliverances. What did you say on Thursday?

MR. BRODRICK said he would send the hon. Member a copy of the reply.

Answers to Questions.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what explanation, if any, has he to give for omission to cause an Answer to be printed and circulated with the Votes, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 9, to a Question distinguished by an asterisk standing in the name of the Member for South Donegal on the Notice Paper of Thursday, 29th June, which he was not present to ask.

MR. BRODRICK: A similar Question was asked by the Member for East Perthshire on the same day and in answering him I included my reply to the hon. Member for South Donegal. Hence no occasion arose for circulating the Answer with the Votes.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Why did not the right hon. Gentleman, as a matter of courtesy, send an intimation to me to that effect when I wrote to him?

MR. BRODRICK: I am sorry if I have been guilty of any discourtesy, but I thought the hon. Member must have seen the Answer.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I do not want to be treated like Lord Curzon?

Hazel Grove (Cheshire) Disturbances.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the disturbances at Hazel Grove and Bullock's Smithy, Cheshire, resulting in a prolonged siege of the police barracks, injury to property, and the wounding of belligerents; and whether, in view of the continued excitement, he will consult with the authorities as to the advisability of placing the services of the military at the disposal of the local police in the event of a further outbreak.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): My attention has been drawn to the matter by hon. Members' Questions and I have obtained a report from the Chief Constable. It appears that on the evening after a local election the police were hustled while arresting a drunken man, a crowd assembled, stones were thrown and windows broken, and extra police had to be obtained from the neighbouring borough of Stockport. There was a slight disturbance the following evening, but the excitement has now apparently subsided. There was no occasion whatever for calling in the services of the military.

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† See page 545.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Have any of the offenders been arrested, and, if so, will they be tried before a special jury?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I have no information on that point.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Seeing that the riot lasted several hours on the Saturday and was continued on the Sunday how is it no arrests have been made?

*Mr. DISRAELI (Cheshire, Altrincham): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the inhabitants of Hazel Grove are a peaceful and law-abiding people?

Mr. MACVEAGH: Law-abiding rioters.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): How many persons were injured in these riots?

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Has the hon. Member who represents the Division denounced these rioters on a public platform?

[No Answer was returnd.]

*Mr. DISRAELI: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the riot which took place at Hazel Grove, near Stockport, on Saturday, July 1st, which culminated in the police station being besieged by the inhabitants, and the local constables held prisoners until released by a force of constabulary from Stockport; whether he is aware that the disturbance was renewed on Sunday night, damage being done to the police premises; whether he is aware that this disturbance is the outcome of a gradually growing feeling of resentment amongst the inhabitants at the conduct for some time past of the local police; and whether, in order to allay public feeling at Hazel Grove, he will recommend the urgency of an inquiry by the Standing Joint Committee of Cheshire into the whole circumstances of the case.

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I have already, in reply to another Question, mentioned the facts of this small local disturbance. The Chief Constable informs me that the ill-feeling towards the police on the part of a section of the inhabitants originates in some recent betting prosecutions, and the removal of a police sergeant who had been very remiss in the performance of his duties. I have no reason to think that the police have been guilty of any misconduct; and I have every confidence that the responsible local authorities—the Chief Constable and the Standing Joint Committee—are perfectly competent to make any necessary inquiries and to deal with the whole matter.

*Mr. DISRAELI: May I say my information as to the cause of the riot is very different.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is giving and not asking for information.

Mr. KILBRIDE: Will the right hon. Gentleman send a copy of his Answer to the Chief Secretary for Ireland?

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will these occurrences be returned in any way as a crime?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: No, Sir. They do not come under the definition of crime in England.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will the right hon. Gentleman ask the Irish Secretary what is his definition of crime in Ireland?

Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: No, Sir.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Suspend the Constitution at once.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Equal laws.

The Post Office—The Stanley Revision.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if the regulation recently issued by the Secretary to the Post Office has reference to postmen only, or if it is to be equally applied to all grades of the postal service. the regulation being to the effect that annual leave is granted for the purpose of improving health to enable an officer to render further services, and that it cannot be granted to an officer who does not intend to continue in the service after the leave has expired; and whether this regulation applies to officers who reach the age limit during the year and who may resume duty for a short or long period after having been granted annual leave.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The rule to which the hon. Member refers applies to all grades of the Post Office service. I am making inquiries as to the practice in other Departments.

Sale Postal Facilities.

MR. DISRAELI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether further inquiries have been made regarding the question of giving the township of Sale, near Manchester, increased postal facilities; and whether it is now possible to meet the wishes and convenience of the inhabitants there and establish a late despatch from that office.

LORD STANLEY: As the hon. Member is aware, the time of posting at the Sale Post Office for the night mail has been extended from 9.0 p.m. to 9.20 p.m. This is considerably later than the time in many important districts nearer the City of Manchester, but I am going to arrange for a later post to be tried as an experiment in order to determine if there is any real demand for it.

Local Government (England and Wales) Act, 1888.

MR. MULDOON (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether any case has arisen in the division of an urban district into wards, or the apportionment of members of the council among such wards, under the provisions of the 57th Section of the Local Government (England and Wales) Act, 1888, and the regulations prescribed thereunder by the Order dated 14th September, 1889, in which a proposal for such purpose formulated by the county council has been opposed by the county district affected; and whether, under such circumstances, it is the practice of the Local Government Board to adopt such proposal in accordance with its powers against the wishes of the county district.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am unable to say whether any case of the kind referred to has arisen. The matter would not come before the Local Government Board, as an Order made by a county council under Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1888, for either of the purposes mentioned in the Question comes into operation on being finally approved by the council, and there is no appeal to the Board against such an Order.

War Stores Inquiry—Investigations in South Africa.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether the final section of the War Stores (Commission) Bill will preclude the Commissioners, either by themselves or through Sub-Commissioners, holding investigations in South Africa, with all the powers conferred upon them when sitting in the United Kingdom.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said it had been thought better that in the case of self-governing colonies such as we had in South Africa the Imperial Parliament should not legislate in respect of any sittings of the War Stores Commission which might be held there. It was anticipated that if it should be found necessary to hold sittings in South Africa the Legislatures in the colonies there would make the necessary arrangements for enabling the Commission to do its work effectively.

Land Registration Act, 1897.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been called to the memorandum of June 23rd, 1905, issued by the Law Society, on the working of The Land Registration Act, 1897, which is declared, after seven years trial, to be a conspicuous failure; and whether, seeing that the Lord Chancellor, when introducing the Bill, stated that the scheme was only to proceed by the most gradual steps, and only by the light of experience, His Majesty's Government will now order an inquiry to be held into the working of the Act.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY was understood to say that a longer experience was required of the Act before anything could usefully be done in the way of inquiry or amendment.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) asked whether an inquiry had not been promised.

MR. REMNANT: Will the right hon. and learned Gentleman advise the Government not to incur any further expenditure of money under the Act?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY replied that he was no party to any promise, but if a promise had been made in any quarter where there was authority to make one it would be carried out. In reply to the hon. Member for Finsbury he could only say he could not undertake to advise His Majesty's Government on a question of policy of that sort.

County Antrim Prosecutorship.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether any appointment has yet been made to the vacant prosecutorship for county Antrim; and whether, in view of the fact that most of these positions in Ireland are filled by those who differ from the majority of the people of Ireland in religious faith, he will now consent to have a Catholic appointed to the vacancy.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The appointment has not yet been made. In making such appointments I have never taken the question of religion into consideration, and never will do so.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: Will the right hon. Gentleman give an assurance that the appointment shall not be given to a barrister who is a Member of the House?

MR. ATKINSON: No, Sir.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: Is it intended to confer it on the hon. Member for North Antrim?

[No Answer was returned.]

Religious Disturbances in Glasgow.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether his attention has been called to the recent religious disturbances in Glasgow, as a result of which prosecutions have taken place in the Glasgow Police Courts; whether he is aware that the disturbance at Glasgow Green on June 11th was caused by the language and conduct of a man named Boal, who appealed to the crowd to turn their faces to the Catholics, and said that if they would drag them in he would hammer them himself and show them the way these things were done in Belfast, whereupon a Catholic was seized, the seizure marking the beginning of the disturbance; whether he is aware that the attention of the chief constable was called to this incident at the time, and that the incident took place in the presence of police officials; whether he will state why Boal has not been prosecuted; and whether he will order that such lecturers' addresses shall not be permitted at Glasgow Green in future.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): My attention has been called to the disturbances referred to. They were due to disputes between the followers of the Protestant speaker Boal and of two Roman Catholic speakers. A few police constables were present and complaints were made to the police by both parties. The chief constable inquired very fully into the matter at once, and the results were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and the magistrates, but there was no sufficient evidence to establish that Boal had used the language attributed to him in the Question or to justify his prosecution. Measures have since been taken which have prevented any repetition of the disturbances. The lecturers were speaking on the portion of the Green set aside by the corporation for speaking and holding meetings, and I have no power to interfere with the corporation's action in the matter, and I have no desire to do so.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: Does not this man Boal, who is the cause of these disturbances, come from Belfast? Is there not a revival in Scotland of religious animosities, thanks to him, and will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to deal with him as an alien immigrant?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I have no information on that point.

Lisburn Assault Trial—Question of Bail.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that a young man named James Reynolds was recently tried at Lisburn Petty Sessions for an assault, and returned for trial on bail; that a merchant of the town and Reynolds' father offered to become bondsmen for his appearance, the former being accepted and the latter rejected by Sergeant Gallagher, Royal Irish Constabulary; that several other gentlemen offered themselves, but this officer also refused to accept them; and whether, in view of the character of the security rejected by Sergeant Gallagher, and the time that Reynolds was kept in gaol, he will cause inquiry to be made as to the *locus standi* of those gentlemen, and the conduct of Sergeant Gallagher regarding the same.

MR. ATKINSON: I will at the same time reply to my hon. friend's Question No 19. James Reynolds was returned for trial at the Summer Assizes, Belfast, and it was ordered that he should be admitted to bail on entering into recognisances, himself in £100 and two sureties in £50 each, to appear there to take his trial, the police to be satisfied of the fitness of the sureties. John Reynolds, described as a "jarvey," the father of the accused, and two persons named James Taggart, publican and mechanic respectively, who are father and son, offered themselves as bailsmen. John Reynolds was objected to by the district inspector, after consultation with Sergeant Gallagher, as an unfit person, and the Taggarts were accepted by the police. Some difficulty was raised by the petty sessions clerk as regards James Taggart, junior, and ultimately a second suitable surety was found, and Reynolds was released. Only two persons were objected to by the police on the ground of unfitness, including Reynolds, the father of the accused. The district inspector and sergeant acted *bona fide* in the exercise of the discretion reposed in them, and there does not seem to be any ground for instituting an inquiry into their conduct. The Sergeant Gallagher referred to in this case is not the sergeant of that name who was transferred from Greencastle.

Appended is the second Question referred to in the Answer:—

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the action of Sergeant Gallagher, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, in the case of James Reynolds, recently charged for assault at Lisburn Petty Sessions and returned for trial on bail, in refusing several gentlemen as sureties for Reynolds' appearance; and whether, seeing that Sergeant Gallagher was transferred from Greencastle about two years ago in the interest of the public service, and in view of the characters of the gentlemen who were rejected as bondsmen by this officer, he will recommend the transfer of Sergeant Gallagher to another district.

Banbridge (County Down) Trials.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the prosecutions arising out of the stabbing of Nationalists near Banbridge, county Down, whether the Crown intends, at the forthcoming trial, to exercise its power to order jurors who hold the same political opinions as the accused to stand aside, as in other parts of Ireland.

MR. ATKINSON: The Crown does not exercise, and will not exercise, its power to order jurors to stand aside on account of their political opinions, but solely because it is believed that if sworn they would not act impartially. That rule will be followed in the case mentioned.

Mr. KILBRIDE: When I was tried I saw a marked jury panel under which all my political opponents were to be allowed to go on the jury while my political friends were to be ordered to stand aside.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN: Why should not juries be packed in county Down as well as in Galway?

Amalgamation of Boys' and Girls' Schools in Ireland.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a copy of that portion of the minutes of 20th December, 1904, of the Board of National Education in which the rules for 1905 were referred to; and also a copy of the resolution at the Board meeting of 25th October, 1904, and the Order made thereon, with reference to amalgamating boys' and girls' schools with an average attendance below thirty.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): The minutes of the meeting of 25th October will appear in the Return granted on the Motion of the hon. Member for East Mayo on 31st May, and about to be circulated. The Commissioners do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by publishing the minutes of 20th December.

Infant Schools in Ireland.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education require any special educational qualifications in relation to the teaching of infants on the part of female teachers before recognising the schools taught by them as suitable in the sense of Rule 127 (b); if so, what are these special qualifications.

Mr. WALTER LONG: In the case of model infant schools, it is required that the teachers shall be qualified to give instruction in Kindergarten, and, while such qualification is desirable in the case of ordinary infant schools, the Commissioners do not insist on it, but the teaching must be otherwise efficient.

Trinity College, Dublin, and Intermediate Education.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland has any application been made by anyone acting in the interests of Trinity College, Dublin, to the Commissioners of Intermediate Education in Ireland, for facilities for selecting successful intermediate students to whom entrance scholarships in Trinity College, Dublin, may be given by the authorities of that college; if so, will he state the precise terms of that application; whether it has been granted; and whether he will lay before Parliament the minute of the proceedings of the Intermediate Board in which that application was discussed.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Yes, Sir; and I propose to lay on the Table the correspondence between Trinity College and the Board of Intermediate Education, together with the Board's resolutions in the matter.

One-room Schools in Ireland.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to state the number of schools for girls in Ireland that have only one room; and whether, besides affording the minimum floor space for the number of pupils on the rolls, the Commissioners of National Education require any other structural conditions as necessary in order that a school may be considered suitable in the sense of Rule 127 (b); and, if so, what are these conditions.

Mr. WALTER LONG: It would take a considerable time to ascertain the number of such schools, and no good object would be served by doing so, seeing that in schools with one teacher a second room is neither necessary nor desirable. The Commissioners have not thought it necessary to formulate the structural conditions which render a school "suitable" under Rule 127 (b).

The accommodation must be adequate and suitable, and, when necessity arises, an inspection will be made to ascertain the fact.

Irish Land Purchase Regulations.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when he proposes to lay upon the Table the regulations prescribed by the Land Purchase Act of 1903.

MR. WALTER LONG: The regulations have been signed by the Lord-Lieutenant, and will be laid on the Table forthwith.

Purchase of Evicted Farms and Untenanted Lands in Tipperary.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have made any efforts to purchase evicted farms or untenanted lands in the county of Tipperary; if so, will he state in how many cases; in how many has the purchase been completed; in how many have the negotiations failed, giving the names of the owners, extent of holding, and the causes which prevented the completion of the purchases.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners have negotiated for the purchase of six estates in this county. In three cases the negotiations are proceeding; in two the offers made have been refused by vendors; and in one case the purchase has been completed. I do not think it desirable to give particulars of the cases referred to in the last inquiry.

Mineral Deposits in Ireland.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland state that a portion of its public work is to undertake inspection of lands on which minerals are believed to exist, the officials of the Department will explain whether such inspection can be satisfactorily carried out without prospecting or, in regard to coal deposits, without the use of a boring drill.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Department hold that inspection by a fully qualified and experienced mining engineer, who has made himself thoroughly acquainted with the local geological formation, is sufficient to show whether prospecting for coal by means of a boring drill could be undertaken with any prospect of success or not.

Dublin Disturbances.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a disturbance which took place at a late hour in Marlborough Street, Dublin, on the 28th ultimo; if he can state the number of persons injured, and by whom; and whether, in view of the fact that Constables Watchorn (228C) and Keating (217C) of the Metropolitan Police are alleged to have been the aggressors, he will order an inquiry into the whole case.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Chief Commissioner of Police has already held an inquiry in this case, as a result of which he has called upon the two constables mentioned to resign, and they do not now belong to the force.

Irish Land Purchase.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the fact that the rate of progress at which agreements for sale under the Land Purchase Act, 1903, are being made makes it clear that the anticipation that twenty years would be required to complete the transfer of Irish land was excessive, and having regard to the urgency of the situation and the appeals that have been addressed to the Government by representatives of landlords and tenants, whether he intends, before the session closes, to place sufficient funds at the disposal of the Estates Commissioners, or to take any other steps, such as offering stock at market value to vendors who may be willing to take such in payment, or by any other means, to meet the difficulty.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am not, at present, in a position to make any announcement in this matter, which is engaging my careful consideration.

Kerry Evicted Tenants.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any negotiations have taken place for the purchase of the estate of Mr. Morrogh, Bernard, county Kerry, by the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, how does the matter now stand; and what arrangements have been made for the reinstatement of the evicted tenants on the estate.

MR. WALTER LONG: A memorial from the tenants proposing to purchase their holdings was received by the Commissioners, who communicated the same to the landlord, but the latter has expressed no desire to sell. Consequently, no opportunity for dealing with evicted tenants' applications has arisen.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how long the estate of Mr. Coltsmann, county Kerry, has been before the Estates Commissioners; how many visits have been made to the evicted tenants on the estate by inspectors of the Commissioners, and the dates of such visits; and what excuse can be given for the failure to assist Mr. Daniel Casey, who was reinstated by the landlord over eighteen months ago, and who is placed in a position of difficulty by the delay.

MR. WALTER LONG: The application for sale was received on the 19th September last. The information desired by the second part of the Question will be obtained and communicated to the hon. Member. A legal consideration is involved in the question of a grant to Daniel Casey, and the matter has not yet been decided.

The Estates Commissioners and Evicted Tenants.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the case of a landlord who declines to sell his entire estate but who publicly states in writing his willingness to reinstate an evicted tenant, the Estates Commissioners will take any action to reinstate such tenant when he finds himself unable to agree to the terms asked by the landlord in direct negotiation between themselves.

MR. WALTER LONG: If the Question means the reinstatement of a tenant on a farm which the owner refuses to sell, the Estates Commissioners have no power in the matter. In such case, however, the Commissioners may be able to allot other lands to the evicted tenant, if such lands are available.

Tariff Reformers in Dublin.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Agricultural Committee of the Tariff Commission will meet in Dublin on 25th, 26th, and 27th July, when witnesses from every part of Ireland will give evidence, and that a number of the members of the Commission will attend and assist in the inquiry; (2) will he say whether the Tariff Commission has any sanction from the Government; (3) whether the Government is giving any assistance, and, if so, of what nature, to the Commission; (4) whether any of the expenses of the Commission have been or will be borne by the Government; (5) whether any persons receiving remuneration of any kind from the Government will be permitted to give evidence before the Commission; (6) and whether an official statement will be issued stating the position of the Government in relation to this matter.

MR. WALTER LONG: The replies to all these questions are in the negative, with the exception of that inquiring whether persons receiving remuneration from the State will be permitted to give evidence. The reply to this inquiry is in the affirmative.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: Who are these persons in Government employ who are to give evidence?

MR. WALTER LONG: I have not the slightest idea.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: That is thoroughly characteristic of the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

MR. WALTER LONG: Such an observation as that is needlessly offensive. How can I know, when such information has not reached me?

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: I will ask the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham himself.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Has this anything to do with the recent visit of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to Ireland?

Irish Land Purchase Advances.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will now state the amount of the advances applied for under The Land Purchase (Ireland) Act, 1903, up to and including 30th June, 1905, the amount which has been actually advanced, and the amount sanctioned; and what is the date of the receipt of the agreements which are being dealt with now by the Commissioners.

MR. WALTER LONG: The amount of advances applied for to the Estates Commissioners up to the 30th June inclusive is £26,896,103. The amount advanced is £6,679,741; and the amount for which advances have been sanctioned, but not yet made, is £1,301,744. Advances are at present being made in respect of cases in which agreements to purchase were lodged in July, 1904.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Have any steps been taken to remedy the block now prevailing in the Land Court?

MR. WALTER LONG: The matter is engaging my attention, and I hope shortly to be able to make an announcement.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Henry Staveley Hill, esquire, for the County of Stafford (Kingswinford Division).

CRIMINAL CASES (RESERVATION OF POINTS OF LAW) BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 261.]

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT (1882) AMENDMENT BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time: to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 262.]

SUPPLY [13TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1905–6.
REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,920,538, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office Services, the Expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the Collection of the Post Office Revenue."

*THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton) said his right hon. friend the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he held the office of Postmaster-General, instituted the practice, which commended itself to the Committee, of making at the commencement of the discussion on the Estimates a general statement as to the work performed by the Department over which he presided; and he proposed, with the consent of the Committee, to follow the same course. He would endeavour to be as short as possible, but it was rather difficult in the present instance to be so for two reasons. In the first place, it had been a somewhat exceptional year in the Post Office with regard to changes and innovations, and secondly, there was a feature in the administration of that Office which particularly called for comment, and that was the action which he took with regard to what was called the Bradford Committee. He proposed to deal with that last, and to enumerate first, as shortly as he could, the work on which the Post Office had been engaged.

There were two matters to which he would refer at the outset; one was the agreement they had come to with the National Telephone Company. It would be remembered that last year, when he had the honour of introducing the Estimates, he told the House that he hoped before the year was over to have come to some arrangement, subject to the consent of the House, for the amalgamation of the Post Office system and the National Telephone Company's system, or for the taking over of the National Telephone Company's system by the Government. That agreement was being subjected to a trial, so to speak, before a Committee upstairs, and as it would in due course come down to this House for confirmation or the reverse by the House as a whole, he need not refer to that further.

Another matter which last year occupied the attention of the House for a short time in the early hours of one morning was the passing of the Wireless Telegraphy Bill. That Bill was only a temporary one, and would come to the end of its existence in August next year. The Postmaster-General then would, he thought, be wise in his generation if, before going into any final legislation with regard to wireless telegraphy, he gave this Bill another year's work to see whether improvements could be made, for this reason. It was not until they began to grant licences that they realised the endless difficulties there were, difficulties which had hardly been foreseen. It was not until February this year that, having got all the different applications and having considered each branch of the applications, they were able to begin the issue of the licences. The hon. and gallant Member for Newington had asked him for a Return which would give him all the statistics with regard to the licences so far granted. This Return he had been only too glad to give him, and he trusted it would prove of interest to the House. There was only one thing he needed to add to that report, and it was an assurance which he hoped the House would accept. No single licence had been given or refused without the full consent or approval of the Admiralty on whose behalf, as a question almost of national defence, he asked the House to pass the Bill last year. He had not brought down with him the Return which the hon and gallant Member asked him for about a week ago, but he promised to have it got ready as quickly as he could and it would be submitted to the House. He promised there should be no secret.

There were two small points dealt with in a Bill of the previous session, viz., the cumulative poundage on postal orders and the use of embossed stamps for prepayment of postage. They had instituted an official parcel post to America. Before the parcels post was provided for by an arrangement with a private express carrier company to America. He was glad to say they had been able to come to an agreement with the Deputy Postmaster-General of America by which there was to be an official parcel post service between the United Kingdom and America. They had also made considerable progress with the interchange of postal orders with the Colonies. He would ask the House to allow him to pass a small Bill after twelve o'clock which was connected with this question, because he did not think it could be called controversial. At present postal orders were not interchangeable between this country and Egypt and certain British protectorates; but he thought it would be found an advantage to hon. Members travelling abroad, and to many others as well, to have this interchangeability, and he would ask the House to allow an Act to be passed which would enable them to carry this into execution. They had instituted a system of sea-sorting on board the Atlantic liners, which would be found to give a considerable acceleration in the delivery of letters. At the present time, however, it was hardly perfected. The Cunard Company had not, he believed, given their adhesion to the scheme, but he had no doubt whatever they would be able to come to terms with them and thus be able to accelerate the delivery of letters from America.

One other matter might perhaps appeal to hon. Members. It was the question of the use of motors in the Post Office service. He was glad to say that every year seemed to prove that we could rely more and more on motor services for the purposes of delivery, especially of parcels. Perhaps the House would like to know that they had at the present moment motors running between London and Epping, London and Redhill, Manchester and Liverpool, Birmingham and Warwick, Birmingham and Worcester, Newcastle and Sunderland, and Northampton and Hitchin, as well as between various district offices in London. Arrangements had also been made for motor services to Hastings, Brighton, and Eastbourne. In every single case the service had been reliable; it had been much cheaper, and much faster. There was one other reform that hon. Members might have noticed, namely the facility of deposits not exceeding £1 at sight from the Post Office Savings Bank. There had been rather a cumbrous, and somewhat expensive, manner of dealing with these urgent withdrawals before. It had to be done by telegram, since by the ordinary method it might take three days to get a small amount out. He had changed that to this extent, that any person could now obtain any sum not exceeding £1 from any post office at once, subject of course to producing his Savings Bank book and establishing his identity. The book then had to be sent to London, being subsequently returned to the depositor by post.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Is the Post Office responsible if it is paid to the wrong person?

LORD STANLEY said he thought so. There was one other reform which, perhaps, he might mention, because it had been worked and most successfully carried out by officials in the Post Office. It was the complete revision and practical re-writing of the Post Office Guide. In the new guide, from which had been eliminated very much useless information, would be found all the information that could be reasonably expected in as concise and convenient a form as possible. Another reform had been the introduction of the penny post from this country to Australia. Australia was not able to meet them in the same way as they met her, except to this extent. While we reduced our rate to our domestic rate they reduced the rate to this country to the level of their domestic rate of twopence. They gave a promise, however, that when their finances allowed, they would reduce the postage to the same amount as ours. It might interest hon. Members to see what effect the reduction of the rate had had. Taking the twelve weeks ending June 24th and October 20th, 1904, the combined average for the two periods was 95,302 letters. The average for the twelve weeks ending June 23rd, 1905, was 111,794, or an increase in 1905 over 1904 of no less than 17·3 per cent. That, at all events, showed that what they had been able to do had appealed to many people in this country, and he could not help hoping it had been of most advantage to the poor, enabling them to communicate with their friends abroad more frequently.

Now he came to the Bradford Committee, and he hoped the House would allow him to put his case to the best of his ability and as fully as he could. The House must allow him to go back to the beginning of this agitation. It began with applications in this House for a Parliamentary Committee to deal with the question of Post Office wages. It was refused by his right hon. friend the present Chancellor of the Exchequer for reasons which he then considered adequate, and he felt perfectly certain that recent events would not have made him see any cause to differ from the opinion he then expressed. He must be allowed to quote his words. Speaking on April 30th, he said—

> "I hold as strongly as I have ever done that a House of Commons Committee is not a body for such an inquiry. No one can have a higher respect for this House or its reputation, and for the spirit which leads so many Gentlemen to give up so much time to public work, and it is therefore with no disrespect for the House of Commons or its Committee that I repeat for myself and my colleagues that we are unalterably opposed to anything in the nature of a Select Committee of the House of Commons for a decision of this Question. Hon. Members know and it is no use blinking our eyes to, the amount of pressure which is brought to bear or is attempted to be brought to bear upon Members on both sides of the House by public servants and by Post Office servants especially, . . . and even if the machinery by which Select Committees are appointed were such as to enable us to secure a Select Committee composed of thoroughly impartial men who had committed themselves by no expression of opinion

to one side or the other, I still think it would not be fair to pick out fifteen Members of this House and make them marked men for the pressure which is now exercised more or less over the whole Assembly."

That was the reason for which his right hon. friend rightly refused to give a Parliamentary Committee to inquire into these grievances. At the same time he recognised that there were certain anomalies which wanted looking into, and that there might be certain points of hardship which ought to be met. With that view he appointed a Committee which was now known as the Bradford Committee to report to him, and to give him the benefit of their advice. Hon. Members and many other people besides looked upon the constitution of this Committee as being that of an arbitration committee, and considered that the result should be accepted by both sides as an award which was final and conconclusive. He must at once protest against any idea of this being considered as an arbitration committee, because to have an arbitration committee they must have both sides agreeing to it as such. In this case he hoped to be able to show that neither side looked upon it as an arbitration committee at all. His right hon. friend in suggesting a Committee said he would suggest a small body of men, he believed not more than five, of practical business experience who would consent to examine the scale of wages, and who would report for his advice and information as to whether they considered the wages adequate or not. Later in the debate the hon. Member for Battersea rather taunted him with by this means giving up his responsibility. His right hon. friend answered him in words conclusively showing that he did not think he would be bound definitely to accept any or all of the recommendations that might be made. The words he then used were—

"I do not think a Minister of the Crown derogates from his own authority or the dignity of the House by seeking advice from those competent to give it. The course I propose to adopt will not lessen my responsibility, but will enable me to come to a decision with the concurrence of the Treasury in the light of fuller information."

He was sanguine enough to think that the Committee would allow that as far as his right hon. friend was concerned he did not look upon this as an arbitration committee. But there was also the side of the postal employees to consider, and they had committed themselves, not only by the speeches of their leaders, but by various circulars and newspapers connected with their various associations. There could, at all events, be said to be no ambiguity about their language. The following paragraph in a circular sent round summed up the position of the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association in August, 1903—

"With practical unanimity our Parliamentary friends advise, while readily admitting the incomplete nature of the inquiry and the objectionable constitution of the Committee, that we should give evidence."

This was the paragraph to which he intended to call attention—

"We have accepted this advice, but we wish to make it perfectly clear that we do not regard the Committee in any sense as an Arbitration Board, neither shall we relax our efforts to obtain a Parliamentary inquiry."

Mr. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): On behalf of the Post Office officials I accepted the Government's proposal at the time.

***Lord STANLEY**: Did the hon. Member accept it as an inquiry into the circumstances, or as an arbitration.

Mr. BAYLEY: My opinion, and the opinion of the House, was that it was an arbitration to settle for the time being a difficult question and we were willing to support it for the time being.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): The words used were "an impartial and judicial decision."

***Lord STANLEY** said no doubt his right hon. friend would be quite willing to state his case. Undoubtedly the men in their circular said deliberately—

"We have decided to accept this advice, but we wish to make it clear that we do not regard it as an arbitration committee."

Mr. BAYLEY: I spoke for the whole.

***Lord STANLEY** said that the hon. Member for Derbyshire said he accepted it on behalf of them all as an arbitration.

Against that on May 8th, 1903, it was stated in the *Telegraph Chronicle*—

> "It was then decided that Mr. Bayley should state clearly that the Committee was unsatisfactory and would not be accepted as final."

Either one or the other was wrong. The Committee was formed. Hon. Members knew the composition of it. It was formed by his right hon. friend before he came into office, and he was asked whether or not he wished it to proceed. He stated that a pledge having been given to the House he naturally had no wish to depart from the course his right hon. friend had adopted. The Committee, therefore, sat and reported, as the House knew. It would be as well if he pointed out the terms of reference to the Committee. They were—

> "To inquire into the scales of pay received by the undermentioned classes of established Post Office servants and to report whether, having regard to the conditions of their employment and to the rates current in other occupations, the remuneration of certain specified classes is adequate."

Surely if that meant anything it meant that the Committee should endeavour to ascertain the wages in other trades or employment corresponding, or that could be said to correspond, with the work of Post Office officials, and that the rates of wages should be compared with a view to seeing whether there was any failure on the part of the Post Office to pay its officials up to the scale. He was bound to say at once that judging from one paper of their organisation—he would be perfectly fair—they dissociated themselves from any idea that their wages should be compared with anybody else's. In one of their periodicals, the *Post* of August 29th, 1903, it was stated—

> "Not only do we object to the composition of the Committee, but we take the strongest exception to its terms of reference. The inquiry as to whether our wages are adequate or otherwise becomes a farce if their adequacy is to be judged by the standard of wages of the open labour market. No such comparison would be reasonable or fair. There is no other employer who fixes his own prices or makes an annual profit of £4,000,000 sterling. There is no other class of work which can be compared to the Post Office work, neither any other employee who can be compared with the Post Office servants. . . . Surely Mr. Chamberlain does not think we shall regard such an inquiry as final. If he does, the sooner his mind is disabused the better."

Now the House would see that at all events the men did not wish their case to be made the subject of any comparison with outside employment. It was undoubtedly clearly laid down by his right hon. friend that such a comparison should be made, and it was on such a comparison, he believed, that this House was entitled to judge of the amount which ought to be paid to its servants. The House would have noticed that, under the terms of reference, the comparison was absolutely essential. But the Committee did not see their way to carry out this part of the reference, for in paragraph 95 of the Report they say—

> "We have not seen our way to obtain any specific figures as to the comparative rates of wages current in other occupations. So far as this portion of the reference to us, we came to the conclusion that no really useful purpose would be served by asking employers of labour to furnish precise details of the wages paid by them. Certain official information is already available, being obtained and published from time to time by the Board of Trade. This information, supplemented by our own experience, affords more reliable data than any particulars we could hope to obtain in the way of evidence within the limits of an inquiry of reasonable duration."

Now he wished to be fair to both sides. They said that, but what he wished to know was what evidence in the Board of Trade Returns had they got which would show that wages generally had steadily increased or that at the present moment there was a falling-off in the purchasing power of the ordinary daily wage of a workman. The Statistics as to the cost of living recently published by the Board of Trade showed that, while the cost of fuel and light had somewhat increased and rents had somewhat risen, 100 shillings would do in 1900 the work which it took 120 shillings to do in 1882. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about fiscal reform?] He had written to the members of the Committee who were employers of labour, asking whether they would be good enough to furnish him with statements of the wages paid in their own businesses. In some cases he received no answer; and in others he was supplied with the most meagre returns; but, such as they were, they did not lead him to believe that a comparison between those wages and the wages paid to the Post Office servants would be unfavourable to the Post Office.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE asked whether the returns received by the noble Lord would be laid upon the Table.

*LORD STANLEY: No, Sir, they were given to me confidentially.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE said that, in accordance with the ruling of the Speaker the other day, any documents referred to by a Minister with a view to influencing the House must be laid on the Table.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is not this the rule, that, while a Minister may refer to a document, it is only when he quotes from it that he is obliged to lay it upon the Table?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is what I have always understood the rule to mean.

*LORD STANLEY said he did not rely upon these communications; he withdrew his reference to them, and he asked the House to consider what he had said about them as not having been said. The Bradford Committee further stated that they thought the Post Office servants were justified in asking for more wages, not only because of the arduousness of their labours, but because of the social position they occupied. That was a basis for a calculation of wages which he could not accept for one moment. It meant that, though the Post Office paid their servants well for the work they did, it should pay them extra for the social position they obtained through being in the service of the State. The Committee went outside the terms of their reference in recommending the creation of more higher posts—without taking evidence of any sort or kind on the matter—for which there was no work, in order simply to increase the prospects of promotion. For instance, in one department the reform scheme of the Committee would mean an increase of the overseers from 250 to 900. He thought he was justified in refusing to accept such a recommendation as being outside the terms of reference to the Committee.

As the Committee had instituted no comparison between the wages paid to Post Office servants and the wages paid in what he might call comparable employments outside, he was obliged to do so himself. He thought it would be admitted that bank clerks were a better class of men and performed a better class of work than sorters and telegraphists; and yet he found that in some of the London banks the unpromoted clerk did not reach the maximum pay of the sorter and telegraphist. The railway clearing-house might certainly be compared with the central telegraph office. At twenty-two years of age the telegraphist got £76; the clearing-house clerk £70; at thirty-six the telegraphist might reach the maximum of £160; the clearing-house clerk did not reach his maximum, £150, until he was fifty-six. He was permitted by some of the railway companies to state that telegraphists in their employment never went beyond 35s. a week. The maximum wages of the Post Office telegraphist were, in London, 62s. per week, and in the large provincial towns, 52s. to 56s. a week. The educational qualification of a certificated elementary school teacher was very much higher than that which was required of sorters and telegraphists; and yet the male certificated teachers in London, if untrained, reached only to the same maximum as the sorters and telegraphists, whilst those teachers who were trained in colleges rose to only £15 higher. The hours of teachers were better; they had longer holidays; but their position as regarded sick-leave and sick-pay was not as good. In Hull the highest grade of certificated teachers received £140, the sorting clerks and telegraphists received £141; in Swansea the comparative figures were £135 and £136, and in Exeter £130 and £136. The only comparison which was not entirely upon his side was that with the clerks in the cable companies, who were paid more than the Post Office cable-room operators; but in the case of the cable companies' operators the work was more arduous and there was liability to be sent abroad at any moment. He had, however, granted an increase of pay to the cable-room operators. Compositors had also been cited in comparison, but he found from the Board of Trade Returns that their average pay was about the same as that of sorting clerks and telegraphists, and that 5 per cent. were always out of work. The

Post Office employee was never out of work, and received pension, sick-pay and leave on full pay, which were never given to the compositor. That constituted a great benefit and put him on a higher standard of pay than was given to the compositor in London.

He now came to the postmen. In their interview with him, there were two classes with whom the postmen wished to make comparison—sorting clerks and telegraphists and bank messengers. The comparison with sorting clerks and telegraphists was rather amusing, because the first thing the sorting clerk said was that nothing would induce him to accept the wage given to a mere postman, and if the latter's pay was put up to the former's, it would immediately be necessary to increase the pay of the sorting clerk. He had got particulars with regard to bank messengers. As a matter of fact, he thought the bank messenger was really a higher class, and had more responsibility than any postman, corresponding rather to the overseer; but he found that, except in one or two exceptional cases, the bank messengers had not got so high a maximum as the postman. More than that, a bank messenger was bound to find security before he was engaged. As regards the police, the comparison was slightly in support of the postmen's contention; but he would ask the House to realise the difference in the circumstances of employment of policemen and postmen and the difference between the requirements which the Post Office exacted and those demanded by the Commissioner of Police. The London police had to be 5ft. 9in. in height, whereas the Post Office took men at 5ft. 4in.; and each year more than 2,700 policemen were injured by being assaulted in the discharge of their duties, which did not fall to the postmen's lot. Again, in the last four years there were 3,087 candidates, of whom 2,319 were qualified in every respect, for 695 places as learners, or more than four to one for every vacant post, and the applicants knew perfectly well what the conditions were. Therefore, it could not be said that on the part of the public at large there was that distrust as to the proper payment of the Post Office employees which they were to understand existed. The Committee said that it appeared to them that the adequacy of the terms now obtained must be tested by the number and character of those who offered, by the capacity they showed on trial, and finally by their contentment. The Committee found that there was no lack of suitable candidates, from whom the best were selected on examination. The supply ran short only during the South African War, and that mainly in the industrial centres. Further, there was no complaint as to their capacity, but that there was widespread discontent. If they had as many men as they wanted, of the right quality, was it not putting a premium on discontent if they said the only thing which justified giving them an increase in their wages was the existence of that discontent?

Briefly summarised, what had been done by the recent revision in increasing the wages of Post Office officials had been as follows:—In London, male sorters and telegraphists, a shilling per week increase in the minimum to 100; age increase of 3s. a week at 25 for 5,000; higher maximum for 1,100; and additions of 2s. 6d. a week for 280 men engaged in working telegraph circuits direct to the Continent. As to provincial sorting clerks and telegraphists, an improved minimum of 1s. a week had been given to 450; an age increase at 25, varying from 2s. 6d. to 1s. a week, had been given to 6,300; an improvement in the maximum to 350; and 2s. a week addition for twenty men engaged in working direct wires to the Continent. In the case of postmen in London, 200 had received an increase at the minimum of 1s. a week; 1,500 had had their pay increased by various amounts; 600 had been benefited by a concession as to the minimum rate of pay at twenty-five years and over In the provinces, 800 postmen had had an improvement in the minimum of 1s. a week; 3,100 had benefited by various amounts under the concession as to counting unestablished service; 4,600 had benefited under the age minimum, and 4,700 by an improved maximum. In the past the scale of pay had been based mainly on the amount of work done at the particular office, but he had decided that the cost of living in the particular neighbourhood should also be taken into account. He did not think the recommendations of the Bradford Committee for a scale based on the population in different areas was at all satisfactory, because the cost of living varied in towns of the same size, and he had determined to have a complete revision of all the scales in connection with the various towns of this country, taking into account the cost of living, and he hoped to announce alterations shortly. Hon. Members sympathised with the case of the rural postmen who suffered hardship in having a lower scale of wages than the town postman, although starting from the town. He had changed that, and the rural postmen starting from towns were now on precisely the same scale as the town postmen.

He had also improved the condition of other rural postmen, hitherto on a fixed wage, by increasing that wage, and at the same time, in order to give them an incentive to do good work, had placed them on a scale by which they could rise to a higher wage. The total of the ultimate benefit would be—in London, 10,700 sorters and telegraphists would receive £54,000; 7,500 postmen £26,600; and in the provinces, 15,600 sorting clerks and telegraphists £61,800; 29,500 postmen, £94,500; 800 members of the supervising force £7,000, and 14,100 men in smaller classes plus additional cost for extra duty, Sunday pay, etc., for the whole of the staff, £128,400 per annum.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Will the noble Lord say anything about women clerks?

*Lord STANLEY said the total number was 78,200 persons, who would receive an ultimate benefit of £372,300 a year. Of female sorting clerks and telegraphists there were about 2,000 in London and 1,800 in the provinces who would ultimately benefit.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): Is that increase this year or next year?

*Lord STANLEY said that would be the ultimate increase when the whole scheme was at work. There were 42,900 persons who were receiving an immediate increase of £224,400. As regarded female labour, 3,800 women would ultimately receive £7,800 a year.

He had endeavoured to show to the best of his ability that the Committee was not an arbitration committee; he had made the comparison which he thought ought to be made between the wages of Post Office employees and the wages of those in outside employment; and he had endeavoured to show by the figures he had last read out that he had at all events done something—he believed all that should be asked—to rectify any shortcomings there might be. But he would ask the House just to consider what was going to be the end of all these demands. This was really a question worthy of consideration on both sides of the House. What were the demands on the public purse for this particular office? It would be within the recollection of the Committee that at a deputation to his right hon. friend and himself one of the men stated that he thought the whole of the £4,000,000 profit, as he regarded it, made by the Post Office employees, ought to be devoted to the payment of those employees.

An HON. MEMBER: He withdrew that.

*Lord STANLEY: No; that man made a deliberate statement, not on his own account, but as representing a particular section or organisation in the Department. It was repudiated by others present, but it was not the case that the man who made the statement withdrew it, because on January 28th he wrote a letter in which he not only did not withdraw the statement but justified it. The concluding paragraph of that letter was one of which the Committee might well take note—

> "There is only one valid reason which can be urged against the whole of the £4,000,000 being now paid to Post Office workers, their lack of ability to spend the money usefully. But this should not discourage us."

That surely was a large demand.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): You have not got a sense of humour.

*LORD STANLEY said the demands made by employees generally before the Bradford Committee, with the pay of all the supervising classes raised in proportion, would have meant the payment from the Exchequer of no less than £2,500,000 a year. He was entitled to ask when was this to cease. Hon. Members knew better than he how they were being bombarded with applications from Post Office employees and other classes of Civil servants for increases of wages. This had taken a form which was not illegal, but which he could not help thinking was an abuse of their rights, viz., the form of a political threat. They had circulated an appeal in which they expressed very clearly and very frankly their intention, and it was one of which the Committee would have to take note now or it would be much worse in the future. They said—

> "Two-thirds at least of one political Party are in great fear of losing their seats. The swing of the pendulum is against them, and any Member who receives forty or fifty such letters will under present circumstances have to consider very seriously whether on this question he can afford to go into the wrong lobby. This is taking advantage of the political situation."

It was indeed, but it was abusing, as it seemed to him, their rights as voters. It was nothing more nor less than blackmail. Itw as nothing more nor less than asking Members to purchase votes for themselves at the general election at the expense of the public Exchequer. Both sides would have to make up their minds that some means should be devised by which there should not be this continual blood-sucking on the part of the public servants. How it was to be done was not for him to say, but he had suggested, and he still thought, that there would have to be some organisation outside Party politics altogether, and unconnected with and unmoved by Parliamentary and political considerations, to whom such questions should be referred and by whom an impartial opinion should be given.

An HON. MEMBER: The Bradford Committee.

*LORD STANLEY said the Bradford Committee was hardly the kind of body which he should call a permanent Committee to whom these questions ought to be referred. That, he thought, was what, sooner or later, would have to be done.

He wanted now rather to anticipate a request that would probably be made by hon. Members opposite—that he should appoint a Parliamentary Committee. To that request he would have to give a negative reply, and he would say plainly why. In the first place, there was that paragraph of his right hon. friend's, speech which he read out at the beginning of the discussion, which showed very clearly what pressure he anticipated would be brought upon any Members who might have to deal with these questions. Nothing had happened since that was written to make any Member of the House think that his right hon. friend's opinion on that point was not perfectly justified. In the evidence given before the Committee would be found the whole of the men's case and their demands as clearly as could be wished, and anybody studying that evidence was as competent to judge of the situation as any member of a Select Committee could be. There was also a personal point to which he might refer, viz., that to appoint a Committee would be to place upon its shoulders a burden of responsibility that ought to be borne by the Minister in charge of the Department. Whatever the Committee might say or recommend it was to that Minister alone, with the consent of his colleagues, that the responsibility would belong. If he might use a colloquialism which expressed his meaning better than any other words, he would say that he was not afraid of taking the responsibility of running his own show himself, and he would not put upon fifteen other Members any responsibility which he, personally, was afraid to bear. He had considered the Report and the evidence, and had done what he thought ought to be done to rectify shortcomings. He stood responsible for that and was not afraid of his responsibility. He asked the Committee to approve the action he had taken. He might have taken the easy course of accepting the Committee's Report or appointing a Committee of this House, but, although that might have been popular, it would not, in his opinion, have been a straight course to adopt. He had done what he believed to be fair, just, and honest to the uttermost to all Post Office employees, and he trusted that the Committee would think that, while he had done his best for the employees, he had not been unmindful of the interests of the employer—the British taxpayer.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said he rose to move the reduction of this Vote which stood in his name for the purpose of drawing attention to the numerous grievances of long-standing connected with the postal service. In doing so he should devote himself to the general aspect of the case, leaving it to hon. Members who followed him in the debate to deal with the different classes for whom they would speak. First of all he would briefly state how the case had arrived at its present position. The postal servants had for many years complained of the conditions under which they performed their duties, and, as far back as the year 1881, an amelioration was proposed when Mr. Fawcett was Postmaster-General, but it was never carried out. Nine years later, under the Postmaster-Generalship of Mr. Raikes, a scheme was brought forward which the Treasury refused to sanction, and it was ultimately only partially carried out. As a result of that there was a demand for a Parliamentary Committee of inquiry, but that demand had never been granted. In the year 1895, owing to the growth both of these grievances and the agitation, they had the Departmental Committee, known as the Tweedmouth Committee, appointed, but, owing to the fact that that Committee was somewhat restricted in its inquiry, in the year 1897 it was followed by the Norfolk-Hanbury Committee. At that time he declared that no good could result from it because it was not the class of Committee which the Post Office servants demanded, nor could they have any confidence in any other Committee except a Parliamentary Committee, seeing that every other kind of Committee had failed. He was right in that contention, and in May, 1903, the late Postmaster-General, whilst combating the proposal to grant a Parliamentary Committee of inquiry, declared his intention of granting what he was pleased to call a business Committee, composed of members from outside this House, and he especially asked for this class of Committee, giving several reasons. Prominent amongst those reasons were two—namely, that such a Committee would be free from the suspicions of undue influence, and, furthermore, that it would report rapidly and enable him to put matters right. At the time, he condemned this Committee from his place in the House, because he contended that there was no honest belief on the part of the Government in the existence of those grievances amongst the postal officials, and consequently, there was no strenuous desire upon their part to investigate and deal with them; and secondly, he contended that it could not be dealt with more rapidly by an outside Committee than by a Committee of this House.

As regarded what had been said about undue influence, his contention was that so long as the postal officials, or should he say the members of the Civil Service, and for that matter the members of the fighting services, were allowed to maintain a vote, they had precisely the same rights as all other voters in the country to exercise their fullest influence in the defence of their rights, privileges, and interests. He might mention that all classes of all communities, all professions, all trades, all combinations of individuals, such as anti-vaccinationists and so forth, had invariably used their utmost pressure in defence of their interests and views upon Members of the House. It might be said that Civil servants occupied a totally different position. That he fully admitted, but what had they seen of recent years? Not a tendency to deny the constitutional rights of voting to these classes, but, on the contrary, to extend them. Within the last twenty years his hon. friend the Member for Manchester and others had succeeded in obtaining the franchise for no fewer than 40,000 members of the police throughout the country. If it was the desire and wish of the people of this country, and of the taxpayers, to enter into such an arrangement with their Civil servants and fighting forces that they should enter them upon the understanding that they were to be deprived to a certain extent of their civil rights, that was another question, but it did not apply to the present case.

As to the question of the Committee dealing more speedily with this question than the Members of the House, his contention had again proved accurate. This Committee was promised in May, 1903, and consequently it had taken more than two years since the Committee was promised, nearly two years since it was appointed, nearly a year since the Committee reported, of which as much as three months was consumed in the printing of the Report. Therefore, he thought he was fully justified in saying that the Government had no faith in the existence of those grievances, and that they had no desire to deal with the question, and, in fact, all they wanted was to gain time and feed the postal employees upon vain hope. This Committee had inquired into one class of grievance, and one class only—namely, the question of the rates of wages, leaving absolutely untouched several other great questions such as civil rights, hours of employment, promotion, the sanitary condition of the buildings in which the work was done, special leave, sick leave, and holidays. Those were all questions of which for years the postal employees had had reason to complain. None of those questions had been dealt with by this outside Committee of business men, and he, personally, had condemned that Committee from the outset.

When this Report appeared it was rejected by the Postmaster-General, and upon what grounds? It was rejected upon the grounds that the Committee had not adhered to its terms of reference. He only needed to quote a paragraph from the Report which showed the view which the Committee took, and to his mind rightly took, in regard to this matter. He wished to point out again that, at the time this Committee was proposed, he stated in the House that the going outside of the House for business men was a distinct slight upon the Members of the House, as if there were not as brilliant and successful business men in the House of Commons as outside of it! Furthermore, there were men in this House who, in addition to business qualifications, enjoyed the esteem and confidence of the public outside. The Bradford Report was rejected on the ground that the terms of reference were not complied with. In his opinion that was a quibble, and it was a despicable quibble, and it was a means of thrusting on one side this Report of a Committee appointed by the Government themselves. The Government had treated this in the same way as they had treated some other matters, and in the same way as they had treated the late distinguished Chief Secretary for Ireland, who, at the behest of the Government, attempted to bring in a form of Home Rule by a side wind, and when he failed to pull the chestnuts out of the fire they dropped him just as they were now dropping the Report of this Committee. He again asserted that it was simply a quibble, and a despicable quibble, and his justification for that statement was to be found in page 19, in which the Committee stated—

> "We have not seen our way to obtain any specific evidence as to the comparative rates of wages current in other occupations. So far as regards this portion of the reference to us, we came to the conclusion that no really useful purpose would be served by asking employers of labour to furnish precise details of the wages paid by them. Certain official information is already available, being obtained and published from time to time by the Board of Trade. This evidence, supplemented by our own experience, affords more reliable data than any particulars we could hope to obtain in the way of evidence within the limits of an inquiry of reasonable duration.
>
> "Moreover, it is difficult to make any valid comparison between a national postal service and any form of private industrial employment, the entire conditions being necessarily so different; payment by results and promotion and dismissal according to the will of the employer, being inapplicable, if not impossible, under the State."

And yet the Postmaster-General brushed aside the whole evidence of that Committee and made it a charge aganst them that they had failed to comply with the terms of reference. How strange it was, as some writer had said, that men would stoop to do in their collective or corporate capacity things which they would scorn to do as individuals. He would give an illustration which he knew would appeal to the noble Lord. What would the noble Lord think of a great landowner, who for years had had difficulties with his tenantry in connection with the question of a reduction of rent, and having combated the proposal to refer the matter to a Committee of surrounding landowners, did eventually agree to refer the matter to a Committee of expert land agents in the immediate vicinity; and if, when this Committee reported in favour of an all round reduction of rent, averaging 15 per cent., the landlord in question declared, "Oh, I have myself investigated this matter, and I have decided upon a reduction of 5 per cent." He was sure the noble Lord opposite would agree with him when he said that if that landlord's tenantry went to him in a body and gave notice to quit, the noble Lord would be the first man to say, "Serve him right;" and if that landowner happened to live in Lancashire, wherever farmers were gathered together, either for business or for pleasure, the language which would be used to describe the conduct of that particular landlord would lose nothing either in volume or in force.

The noble Lord asked them to take him as an authority on the wages question in preference to such men as the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, the director of a great railway, a great shipowner, and the managing directors of two of the largest and most important commercial concerns in this country. If the noble Lord expected them to do that, then he must have an exaggerated opinion of his own knowledge and experience in this matter of the rate of wages, and he must have also a very limited idea of the common sense of hon. Members of that House. But he was sure the noble Lord did not expect them to do anything of the kind. He yielded to no one in admiration of the many admirable qualities of the noble Lord. Among those qualities he would put cordiality, courtesy, and sound common sense. Therefore, the noble Lord did not expect them to accept him as an authority on the wages question, over and above the five gentlemen whose names he had referred to. But the noble Lord had no faith even in the scheme he himself proposed, because on January 12th, speaking to a deputation, he said—

> "I do not pretend for one minute that I expect that in stating thus generally what the Government are prepared to do you will think I am right in what I am doing. I quite expect, and I am sure not without reason, that you will endeavour, by all legitimate means, to get a further increase, but I am also sure that any action you take will be temperate."

He (Captain Norton) would ask what was the noble Lord's object in bringing forward this scheme of his if he did not believe in its efficiency?

LORD STANLEY: This was said to the men themselves. I was perfectly right from the point of view of the employer. I said that probably the employees would not think so.

CAPTAIN NORTON said the noble Lord went on to say—

> "I am also sure that in any action you take you will be temperate."

Quite so, and if the action of the postal officials had not only been temperate but abundantly temperate, as he had over and over again stated, if they had ever crossed the border of discipline he would certainly not be their spokesman in the House, but would be speaking against them. But there was not the smallest shadow of doubt that they would continue, as all their associations had pledged themselves to do, this agitation and this demand, because they were fully justified in appealing, like all other classes of workmen, if he might use the word, from the management to the employer; that was to say, from the Government to the Members of the House of Commons, who were the representatives and the protectors of the taxpayer here, and who, in their turn, would be responsible to the taxpayers.

They talked of threats on the part of a certain limited number of postal officials. Why, the idea was preposterous. Had not every hon. Member the power of appealing to the taxpayers, and did he not frequently do it against any particular part of the taxpayers who sought to deal unfairly by his fellows. But the fact was that the public were now fully convinced of the justice of the claims of the postal officials. How did the man in the street look at this question? He said that the present Government had been in power some ten years. At the beginning they were able to give thousands of pounds in doles to their political supporters. They were able to squander not thousands but scores of millions on a disgraceful and mismanaged war. They had been so negligent of their duties that they had allowed the taxpayers to be swindled by contractors out of millions. It had been conclusively proved by the Committees that had sat that there had been deficiencies in the War Office accounts amounting to millions. Somebody must be responsible for that, and, while these millions had been lost from want of sufficient care on the part of the Government, they denied to the permanent servants of the State a living wage. The public realised that and they were on the side of the postal officials, and, therefore, they might continue the agitation in a temperate manner because the public were convinced of the justice of their cause.

Now, with reference to what he supposed would be known as the Stanley modified scheme, he said it had one merit, and one merit only. That was, that it was cheap. But, on the other hand, it had one demerit, and that was a very important demerit. It was justice long delayed, and still being denied. Therefore he condemned it. Perhaps some might doubt that statement. Let him read again from the Bradford Committee Report, paragraph 22—

> "There are points in this scale at which we think improvements might be made. For example, it has been urged upon us with some force, and much evidence has been put forward to show, that the minimum wage is not a living wage and that great temptations beset young men who are left to support themselves unaided on an insufficient salary, also that the scale is insufficient to enable sorters to support a wife and family at a reasonable age."

Well, in spite of this under payment, aggravated by the general rise in wages and prices to which the Committee had also alluded, there had not been any insubordination or any inefficiency on the part of the postal officials. On the contrary, if they read the Bradford Report, they would find that their superiors, over and over again, spoke in the highest terms of the way in which they had done their work. Now, he asked, would any other body, more especially such a large body as these, outside the public service, have behaved in this admirable manner? Was it not a tribute, and a very high tribute, to the excellent qualities of our public servants? He asked would the coal-miners of this country have patiently laboured under the disadvantages under which these men had laboured? Would they, if Committee after Committee had met the employers, and if time after time they had been foiled, still continue to do their work? Let those hon. Members who said that they represented the coal-miners in this House answer if he was right or not. He said it would not have been tolerated for one moment. He said it was their duty, as Members of the House and representatives of the taxpayers, to see that these officials were given at least a living wage. The demand he made to the House was that these men should have their case—not simply the case of wages alone, but all their grievances, the whole category of them—fully placed before a Parliamentary Committee of inquiry. Let that Parliamentary Committee of inquiry decide. There had been inquiries since 1881, and they had all failed to give satisfaction in regard to the grievances of the men. Here, now, this last Committee of outside men, totally unbiassed in every way, and who might be thought rather against the men than for them—these men had proved abundantly that the postal servants had been underpaid and that they had many grievances. He said at least that since the Government would not accept the dictum of their own Committee they should grant a Parliamentary Committee of inquiry. He was not alone in making this demand. More than forty Members on the opposite side had, on two occasions when approaching the Postmaster-General on deputations, declared it to be only—he forgot the exact words—just and right that the matter should be immediately attended to. This was the case that he had to lay before the Committee, and he did it with much confidence, feeling that there were Members on the other side of the House who, at any rate, had some independence, and who placed the matter of justice above a Party vote.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.), in supporting the Amendment, said he had the advantage of knowing for more than twenty years, during which he had been in this House, somewhat intimately the details of this controversy. He was bound to say that so far from deserving some of the reflections which had been made on the conduct of the service and the imputation of their having exercised a most unjust and undue pressure—because that had been alleged—during that time he had seen much reason to admire their consistently constitutional conduct. He, at any rate, did not forget that when a strike, a few years ago, was very imminent, they were good enough to accept the advice given them by Members of this House, including himself, and to prefer the public convenience and interest to the assertion of what they then belived, as they believed to-day, to be their just rights. Whatever objection there might be to a Parliamentary Committee it had at least to be remembered that they had always said they would accept and abide by its determination, and that it would be a verdict of their own employers, possibly with some very slight representation of those who more particularly represented the labour interest in the House. He thought that that had been a reasonable and just attitude. And what was the House to do unless something of that sort was adopted. The Tweedmouth Committee made confusion worse confounded. Classification, and all other questions were discussed, but they were by no means settled, and now they were to d to-day that a Committee which was heralded with certainty of practical success had been set on one side. What tribunal was there left but the House of Commons? Could this House determine the questions of detail which had been put before the Committee to-day? Only through a Committee. And yet, after all, as representing both employers and employed, this House was a tribunal even superior to the Minister himself. It must assume the responsibility of determining justly the question which had produced chronic discontent, born, in his opinio , of injustice and inequitably low wages, which was proved by the fact that at the point of the bayonet and at long intervals those injustices had been partially, but only very partially, redressed. To-day what his noble friend had proposed was not, of course, a free gift to the Post Office servants. It was justice to the men, or gross injustice to the taypayer. But if it was justice it only showed the measure of injustice to which they had been so long subjected. This discontent had often been denied by Ministers in the House. He had heard it said constantly that it did not exist among the servants as a whole, but he read in this Report a passage which he thought might be taken as conclusive, that there "was widespread discontent" arising from just and real grievances. He put it to the Committee whether, after existing for nearly twenty years, it was a proper economic position, whether it was safe and in the interest of the State, that this discontent should continue, whether it should be dealt with by patchwork proposals, one after another, or whether it was not a wise and business-like course which animated the present Chancellor of the Exchequer to submit the question to a business tribunal, and settle it so far as possible for some time. He still thought business men in this House could, would, and might deal with it with perfect safety.

He had said the Post Office servants had been underpaid, and there was never any economy in underpaid or ill-fed labour. He had heard interjections to-day and read in the papers about medical attendance and the like, and again he should like to refer to the Report of the Committee which had been investigating closely and in detail all these points. That Report said, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of the service, the medical aid—medical aid which, he would remind the Committee, had so often been rendered necessary by bad sanitation of post and public offices and the like, was not an unmixed benefit to the service. The Committee found that these additional aids were counter-balanced by many considerations which belonged to a service in which the employees had no right to barter for their wages, but in which the wages were arbitrarily fixed by the employing Department, and pensions were really only contingent deferred pay. Therefore, they might dismiss that incidental consideration. The main point for discussion to-day was, after all, the attitude of his noble friend towards the Report of the Committee of his own choice and of his own appointment. He could not get away from that cardinal fact. It was twice approved. It was appointed by the late Postmaster-General, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that Committee, hoping ultimately to meet with approval, went to the noble Lord and asked him to endorse it, which he did. It was his own Cæsar to whom he had appealed, and having appealed to Cæsar he brushed him aside, treated him with great indignity, and said he would have his own will and way. He did not know what other Members might say or do, but of course the noble Lord was setting up a lay Cæsar only to knock him down when he talked of this being an Arbitration Committee. One could not divest the Minister of responsibility and fix it upon arbitrators. What could be said was that when a Minister appointed a Committee, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer did—"to strengthen his hands"—he could not afterwards say with any reasonable fairness that he would have no regard for it, or brush it aside. He put it to the Committee whether the noble Lord as a Minister was or was not bound to have a full and fair regard to the Report of a Committee of his own appointing which had gone fully into the complex, intricate, and technical details which this House could not hope to unravel.

What was the origin of the Committee? It was dictated to the postal service and no representative of the employees was put on it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in appointing it said—

> "I have come to the conclusion that the wages which postal employees receive are not in all respects satisfactory. My hands will be strengthened by the practical and business knowledge and experience which I can find from this impartial and independent tribunal. They will report for my information, and the plain question I put to them is: 'Are the wages of the Post Office servants adequate or not.'"

That was the plain issue that was left to the Committee by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. There was another significant word which he used, which became very material when considering the action of this Committee, when the right hon. Gentleman said there must be a limit to inquiry for it must not be interminable.

If there had been a roving Commission into all trades it would act as was shown by the noble Lord, for the replies he received from employers would not be complete by any means, and if not complete would probably be misleading. If they had done that, the inquiry would probably have been going on now. His only doubt was whether the Post Office would not have been pleased rather than sorry if it had been so, for there had been long delays before that Report was published. There had been hopes and anticipations on the part of the men. It took months to print and to consider it, and it was only produced at the very fag end of the session when it was impossible to discuss it. He wanted to point out here that in all his observations in his speeches on appointing the Committee there was no word to indicate on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Committee that he expected they would inquire into the wages and conditions of other trades. He thought that was a significant circumstance, unless the reproach now laid upon the Committee was in reality an afterthought.

LORD STANLEY: I do not quite understand what the hon. Member means by the Chancellor of the Exchequer never thinking that this Committee would not inquire into the wages paid in other trades.

***SIR ALBERT ROLLIT** said he did not say that or refer to the reference itself. He said in all the observations of the Chancellor in heralding his Committee, about their business experience and knowledge and impartiality and independence, and strengthening his hands, he never said any word in his speech itself about his expectation that there would be a roving inquiry into other trades.

What happened? The staff, whatever they feared, loyally gave evidence. The Leader of the Opposition said the other night that it was the duty of the Department to see that its case was properly put before the Committee. The Committee themselves asked for the Post Office case and the present Secretary of the Treasury, Sir George Murray, the Comptrollers, and others, attended and gave their evidence as to the effect of any proposals the Committee might make. This Committee had done more than most Committees. It visited the General Post Office, came into contact with the staff, visited the Central Telegraph Office, went down to Liverpool and other provincial places, and saw how the work was going on and even travelled, through one of its members, on the North-Western mail car from Rugby to London to see even the details of dealing with letters in transit. Surely that was some reason for confidence in the Committee's Report. It heard matters in public and in the presence of the Press and heard all classes for and against this Report.

What did the Committee find; because, after all, that was the main point—whether their findings could be reasonably justified, remembering that they had seen the witnesses and examined the circumstances. They found that in the younger classes the minimum wage was not a living wage. Was that the basis upon which a young man was to commence his life? Was it the basis on which he was to meet the temptations of early life? Was that the basis on which he was to enter upon marriage? If that finding was true, it was destructive to the system which had prevailed in relation to this matter up to the present time. He believed the Committee, after full investigation, said that there should be some substantial increase, and let not the Committee be mislead into thinking that these were generalities. He had the Report, which, with its appendices, was full of the most intimate details touching each class—sorters, tracers, telegraphists—and the subject had been threshed out thoroughly.

Then they were told that this would cost something. Of course it would cost something. That was the measure of the injustice, for there had been injustice. He knew the noble Lord was chivalrous, and he shared to the utmost what had been said about him, but he did not think that in quoting one uneconomic individual, a Mr. Young, who did say that the net revenues of the Post Office should go to the employees—an obvious absurdity and even for the purpose of Parliamentary debate, the Postmaster-General should not seek for a moment to fix it upon the employees themselves. They had done their best to repudiate it. He had heard it repudiated at public meeting after public meeting. He would say for them what he thought was a true proposition, that when they were dealing with a surplus revenue of £3,000,000 to £4,000,000 one of the first charges upon that was that all proper expenditure, including fair and just earnings and wages of those who produced the net revenue, was a first charge upon that service, and the next charge, unless they maintained a special tax on letter writers, was the provision of additional facilities in respect to which we owed much to the noble Lord to-day for what he had proposed.

How had the noble Lord dealt with this matter? He had done something. He had done about one-sixth of what his Committee found, upon his own estimate of what the carrying out of the Report would cost, and that was the measure of the previous injustice, But that sixth or so was not and would not be acceptable unless the wages were just and right as found by this or some other Committee which would have to deal with it. The question was one of justice or the contrary. He believed the earners had justice on their side, but this House could not really determine the question. Take one case which was not dealt with in any way by this Report. It related to the Telegraph Office. They had heard often of a case in which they promised a prospect, through the Civil Service Commissioners, to any young telegraphist entering the service, of £190 a year. It was like the baton in the knapsack of the soldier and the possibility of his becoming Field Marshal. Very few had ever attained it. It was not a great sum as a wage for a skilled telegraphist after twenty-one years service, but nearly every impediment that could be offered had been presented. Instead of its being open to operatives, technical examinations, senior classes, and supervision had been interposed as barriers after the contract was made. He did not say it was a breach of faith but it was a breach of contract. The noble Lord proposed to leave that unredressed. He thought that was not equitable. He thought the telegraphists had a just claim in equity in that matter, for they would not be fairly dealt with until £190 maximum was conceded after twenty-one years service instead of £160. To a married man with a family, and increasingly long distances to travel, greater demands in many forms and in London certainly an increase in expenses, that was not a great sum. That was one of the cases and he added it specially to those mentioned. Without peace the work of the State could not be well carried on. In such a case parsimony was not economy.

In the reference to the Committee it was stated that the members were to inquire into the scale of pay and report whether the wages, having regard to the wages in other occupations, were just. One of the chief members of the Committee was an eminent statistician. The official figures were at his disposal and there were also other members who knew what the current rates of wages were. There was, therefore, no need for inquiry on that point. The Committee included the head of a great railway company, a director of Harrod's Stores, and also the head of the Wholesale Co-operative Society. They were men with a concentrated knowledge which would enable them to deal with the terms submitted to them. This was a grave question of justice on the part of the State as an employer. Was it to be maintained? Was the Report to be brushed aside? If so, was the House of Commons incapable of producing fifteen impartial and efficient business men to consider the matter. If not, the House should have full and fair regard for the decision of the Committee. He desired that the State, as was represented by the Committee, should be a good employer of labour; that in its own interest it should pay proper remuneration; and that any increase in unfair cost of earning it should be a first charge on any revenue, before it was regarded and disposed of as net profit.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,920,438, be granted for the said Service."—(*Captain Norton.*)

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said that, as one who had held the office of Postmaster-General, he should be sorry to think that any servant of the Government was not adequately paid. What was the test of adequate remuneration? Surely it was whether the market could yield labour according to the demand; and when they knew that there were five or six candidates for every position in the Post Office how was it possible to say that the pay was inadequate as compared with that in other employments? They had heard spokesmen of the Army declare that the inducement to enlist was insufficient as compared with private employment; but it was not possible to say that as regarded the Post Office. Hon. Members knew how the position of the employees of the Post Office had been advanced during the last fourteen or fifteen years. Mr. Raikes improved the pay of the establishment by £207,000; and as a result of the Tweedmouth Committee there was a further increase of £600,000. When he was Postmaster-General there were also increases; and the Duke of Norfolk and the late Mr. Hanbury followed on the same lines. Then the present Postmaster-General increased the pay to the amount of £312,000; and altogether the increase in wages during the past fourteen or fifteen years amounted to £1,000,000. Nevertheless, hon. Members declared that the interests of these public servants had been disregarded. The Tweedmouth Committee went exhaustively into the question and made many recommendations. These were carefully considered by the Duke of Norfolk and the late Mr. Hanbury; and the pay of the staff was increased by £600,000 per annum.

The hon. Member who moved the Amendment spoke of an agitation which would continue until what he called justice was done. At one time these employees were denied the franchise for fear they might bring undue influence to bear upon Members of Parliament in their own interest. It was not until 1874 that the Act of Parliament was altered and they were placed in the enjoyment of the franchise; but it was clearly laid down at the time that the Departments should have the right to regulate the extent to which their servants might engage in political agitation. But now hon. Members were to be seen encouraging public servants to engage in agitation. He thought it was most unfortunate that Members of the House should allow themselves to be influenced by the pressure which public servants brought to bear upon them, and should bombard the Treasury with Questions and representations with a view to extort increments of pay for these public servants, and so prevent the public service being regulated according to the rules of the labour market, viz., supply and demand. He earnestly hoped the Committee would not lend itself to this kind of pressure.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) said he was not surprised to hear the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman. When he was Postmaster-General he believed the right hon. Gentleman did give some small increases of two shillings a week to some of the postal employees. The right hon. Gentleman said that since that time great increases had been given to men in various grades. That was quite true, but during the same time the Post Office itself had made extensively increased profits. £500,000 profit was made in the year 1904 over the profit of 1903, and if any officials were entitled to receive additions to their pay, as he believed they were having regard to the work they had to do, it was those who made that profit. At the same time the country was repaid by the efficient carrying on of the Department. Referring to the Bradford Committee, he might say he did everything he could to urge the men to appear before it. He said it was composed of business men who, he thought, would deal impartially with the matter, but that at the same time if they leant one way more than another they would probably lean to the side of the State. Every man who was appointed on the Committee was an expert managing large numbers of employees. Yet their Report had been brushed aside and the most meagre attention had been paid to its recommendations by the Postmaster-General. Discredit had been thrown upon the Committee by the State, and he was therefore not surprised that after that took place these men should have refused to give their services to the Committee. The Post Office servants had received such treatment up to this date that they must insist on a Committee of this House being formed to deal with this matter.

Now there were one or two cases he desired to call to the attention of the Postmaster-General. The case of the sub-postmasters was one of the hardest of those which occurred under the *régime* of the Post Office. They had very arduous duties to perform and from the nature of those duties it was almost impossible for them to leave their offices. They were responsible for everything that occurred through the acts of their employees, and their pay was very inadequate to the services they gave. Now the sub-postmasters were a very large body. In London there were 901 sub-offices; in England and Wales 4,105; in Scotland 350, and in Ireland 210. There was a total of 5,566. There was a general impression among the sub-postmasters that every concession given to the public was really squeezed out of the sub-postmasters, and they would find that that was practically the case. In the money order business it was at one time impossible to get a money order for more than £10, and the postmaster received a commission on each £. Now that it was possible to get money orders for £20, £40, and £50 the sub-postmaster missed the commission on each £10, and only got one commission on the whole. Then the parcels post had made it possible to send larger parcels, and this caused a considerable increase in the work of the sub-postmasters. With regard to sub-postmasters, the right hon. Gentleman had made a so-called concession by raising the payment for the first 1,000 money orders from 20s. to 30s. That would benefit some of the smaller offices, but as the rate per 1,000 above 5,000 was to be decreased by 10s. the larger sub-offices would be considerable losers. For many years sub-postmasters felt that they had been tapped to provide money required in other directions, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give their complaints his serious attention.

Then as to engineers and linesmen, whom Sir W. Preece described as the backbone of the telegraph and telephone service, from 65 to 75 per cent. were not on the establishment, they were on probation, which the men thought was a very great debarment to them. They were buoyed up in the hope of being placed on the establishment, but too often the hope was illusory. Some of the supervisors had numbers of men under them, and hundreds of pounds worth of property in their charge, so that they were responsible men. It was unfair that such men should be on probation for from two to twenty-five years; a term should be fixed at the close of which either the services of the men should be dispensed with, or the men themselves placed on the establishment, and receive the privilege attaching to that *status*. With regard to wages, they were paid for piecework at from 5d. to 5½d. per hour in London, which amounted to about 23s. a week, whereas companies paid 7d. or 8d. an hour, amounting to from 31s. 6d. to 36s. a week. Moreover, when they worked outside the office they were allowed from 6d. to 8d. per day for lodgings, while the telephone company allowed 50 per cent., and some companies 200 per cent. more. Since the Bradford Committee, the men on the establishment had been docked of certain holidays, and all new men had to work fifty-four hours a week and also submit to certain reductions in the holidays awarded by the Tweedmouth Committee. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give these matters his best attention.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY said that from old associations his sympathies were naturally with the men in the public service. He believed that service was the best in the world, and it ought to be maintained at full strength and efficiency. His view had always been that the State should be a model employer, that it should pay its employees fairly, liberally, and even generously—not so generously as to constitute a bribe to men to enter the public service, but sufficiently to afford an example to other employers, so that through the agency of the State the standard of life might be raised rather than lowered. The general question the Committee had to consider was whether or not Post Office officials were fairly paid. The natural inclination was to pay the men as highly as possible, but how were hon. Members to judge whether these people were fairly paid? Reference had been made to profits. He regretted to read that a member of the recent deputation seemed to demand a very large share, if not the whole, of the profits of the Post Office—though certainly that was not the attitude adopted by the general body of postal servants. The State had a right to make a profit; but it should not be forgotten that for many years there had been a heavy loss on the telegraphs portion of the work, so that the question of profits had really nothing to do with the matter. An important consideration was the fact that for every post in the service there was a large number of applicants. That, after all, was the real test of the whole situation. ["No."]

The Committee had to consider not only the interests of the service, but also the interests of the taxpayer, and he declared emphatically that they must hold the balance fairly between the two. In his own constituency there were a large number of postal servants, and he would, doubtless, gain many votes if he said at once that they ought to have everything they asked for. But there were also an immense number of people anxious to get situations, and he undertook to say that hundreds, if not thousands, of them would jump at the chance of employment under the Post Office at present rates of pay. If there were so many anxious to enter the service on the terms now obtaining, he thought that was conclusive evidence that, as a whole, postal servants were not unfairly or unjustly treated. No doubt there were cases which required adjustment, and he took it, from the Postmaster-General's speech, that those adjustments would be made. From inquiries he had made, it seemed that many men freely entered the service and then a year or two afterwards began to complain that the pay was not sufficient. That, he thought, was a very peculiar position.

He thought it unfortunate that so much pressure should be put upon Members of Parliament in connection with this matter. Ever since he had been in Parliament postal servants had been agitating for increased pay.

Various Committees had been appointed. As to the Tweedmouth inquiry, everybody knew that the Chairman was not likely to be influenced in any way by sordid considerations, but would endeavour to deal with the matter as liberally as possible. Practically, the carrying out of Lord Tweedmouth's suggestions involved an increased expenditure of £600,000 a year, and they thought that would have brought an end to the agitation. But it had not done so. He very much regretted that these charges were continually being made. Another test to apply to this case was the test of other employment. There was an institute carried on by the Civil Service known as the Civil Service Supply Association. It was a very large concern, commenced more than forty years ago. It was a profitable business and paid a large dividend, and out of 1,500 or 1,600 employees about 400 of them were paid less than £1 a week. Now this was an institution carried on by Civil servants themselves, who appointed the staff and settled the wages, and it was very largely on the lines of the Post Office, and it was very remarkable that they should pay such small wages. It was nevertheless a fact that they paid 25 per cent of their employees less than £1 a week. He was extremely anxious that the Post Office employees should be a contented and happy class of persons, but in this matter he sympathised with the Postmaster-General, because it seemed to him that if they were everlastingly increasing the number of persons employed by the State and by municipalities, and if they adopted a system under which there was a continual agitation for increased pay when that pay was as liberal as in any other private employment of a similar kind, the time must come when something must be done to put the system upon a different footing. He felt very strongly that this ought not to be made in any sense a Party question. It was very unfortunate that the matter could be worked in the way that it had been, by the threats of the withdrawal of support by the employees. This was a most unfortunate position of affairs and he was quite sure that Members on both sides of the House, whilst wishing to do justice to the men in every way, would remember that they had the taxpayer to consider as well as the public employee. Taxation had grown so heavy that he thought they were bound to see that they got the full value for their money, and that it was not wasted.

An HON. MEMBER: How about South Africa?

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY said he certainly supported the Postmaster-General. They were bound to do that, and he hoped some measure would be adopted either for a Joint Committee to go into these questions or for a permanent body, such as the Public Accounts Committee, to look into them and see whether there was fairness and propriety in the payments, and whether they could be satisfied that full justice was being done. If some such course was adopted, both sides of the House must do what was right and not allow pressure to be exercised unduly. So long as they allowed the system of agitation in the matter of payment in the public service to continue, they would not only be permitting an injury to the staff but they would be paying more than was necessary, and undermining that real efficiency and good name of the public service which he trusted would always deservedly exist.

Mr. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) said the hon. and gallant Member who moved the reduction of the Vote had dealt fully with the Post Office employees' grievances, but one point had not been touched upon. The Bradford Committee was appointed to settle all disputes for the time being, and the House as a whole accepted that appointment in perfect good faith, believing that the Postmaster-General and the Government were not deceiving the House of Commons in any way. The Report came out in good time and a very able Report it was. That Committee was composed of very competent business men, but the Postmaster-General, three months after receiving their Report, told the House that this Committee had exceeded the terms of reference. In such a case there was one very simple thing to do. If a Report exceeded the terms of reference the proper and courteous thing to do was to send that Report back to the Committee and ask them to explain why they had exceeded the terms of reference, or the alternative was to ask them for a fresh Report. Neither of those courses was taken. He did not think that Report had ever been acknowledged officially, and those gentlemen had not been thanked for devoting all their energies to this inquiry.

An ordinary case of law corresponded very much to this one. If they went to trial there was a period during which they could go to a Court of Appeal. When that time expired, and either side did not avail themselves of that privilege, the judgment stood and could not be altered. The Government was exactly in that position. They did not go to the Court of Appeal for they did not send the Report back. Consequently they accepted it. It was the Government's own Court which made the inquiry, and they had allowed the time to go by for appealing. In so doing the Government had made a very great mistake, and were causing a great amount of dissatisfaction in the public service by their action in not accepting the Bradford award, and they were doing the very thing which they ought to have avoided. That disatisfaction was growing, and it had been caused by the Government and not by the employees, who were simply speaking of what they believed to be right and just. The Postmaster-General had made a very able speech, but he lacked imagination, and did not put himself in the place of the Post Office employees who felt, and felt rightly, that by not going to a Court of Appeal the Postmaster-General was keeping something back. There was a very strong feeling, not only in the House but outside, that the Government, by not carrying out the award of Sir Edward Bradford, were causing considerable irritation amongst Post Office employees in the country, and they were doing the very thing they ought to have avoided.

*MR. RITCHIE (Croydon) said that whatever might be the opinion upon the main question to be discussed, he was quite sure that the whole Committee appreciated—and highly appreciated—the extremely good work that had been done by men acting under the Postmaster-General. He was satisfied that they had every confidence that the work was well done and they all desired, if there was a real grievance among a body of men like that, to have the grievance remedied. But they must be just before they were generous, and he hoped that the House of Commons would not forget their responsibility to the taxpayers, and would remember that if they did more than was necessary they were not acting fairly to the taxpayers of the country. It was a remarkable fact that whilst Members of the House of Commons were preaching economy in the public service and were finding fault with the swollen Estimates, they tried in every way to induce responsible Ministers to make larger demands upon the taxpayers for particular purposes. When a question like this came up economy was thrown to the winds and they were asked on altogether insufficient grounds to add to the burdens of the taxpayer an amount which was estimated by the Postmaster-General, and he thought agreed to by the hon. Member for South Islington, at something like £2,400,000.

LORD STANLEY; If the amount asked for by the employees before the Committee had been granted it would have amounted to £2,500,000 but the amount awarded under the Bradford Committee would have been £1,300,000.

*MR. RITCHIE: I think the hon. Member for South Islington spoke about the amount as being six or seven times more.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: What I said was that the noble Lord offered about one sixth of what was asked for by the Report of the Committee, but I may say that I do not even agree with that estimate of my noble friend the Postmaster-General.

*MR. RITCHIE: I rather gathered from my noble friend that the amount will ultimately reach a sum over £300,000.

LORD STANLEY: £372,000.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: That was not my calculation but in that case it will be somewhat more than one-sixth.

*MR. RITCHIE said it was very little short of the sum he stated. The estimated cost of carrying out the proposals was between £2,000,000 and £2,400,000. That was the amount which the hon. Gentleman seriously contemplated casting upon the shoulders of the already heavily-burdened tax-payer.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: That was not a calculation of mine. I thought the sum stated by my noble friend was somewhat less. It is not a question now of what the men claimed but of what the Postmaster-General himself estimated as the cost of carrying out the recommendations of the Committee, viz., £1,250,000, and it was to a sixth of this estimate (not my own) I referred. None of the figures were mine.

*MR. RITCHIE said it was not worth while quarrelling with the hon. Gentleman about the figures. At any rate, it would amount to something like £2,000,000. That was the amount which the hon. Gentleman was indignant that the Government did not at once concede. The demands were made irrespective of the amount they would cost.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: That statement is incorrect.

MR. RITCHIE said that if it could be shown that this amount was really necessary in order to do justice to the employees of the State he for one would not, and he did not believe that the taxpayers would, grudge it. But he would grudge, and he believed the taxpayers would grudge, the expenditure of this amount of money unless it was clearly shown that it was necessary in the public interest and in order to do justice to the employees. This claim was based on the Report of the Bradford Committee which had been spoken of as an arbitration committee. He should be very much astonished if any member of any Government would ever consent to occupy the position of saying that when a reference was made to a Committee he would feel himself bound to accept the conclusions of the Committee, whatever expense might be involved. The responsibility rested upon the Government and upon the Minister, and it was for them or him to consider the recommendations of the Committee. It was for him to consider all these matters and to come to a decision on his responsibility, and to make such recommendations as he might deem necessary to the House of Commons. It could not be otherwise; it would be absurd to suppose that a Minister could discharge his responsibility, and especially his responsibility as to finance, by referring the matter to a Committee. He found that so far as the applications for employment were concerned, the number of applicants for posts in the General Post Office had been so great as to show that, in the opinion of those desirous of entering the public service, this was a very desirable service.

When his hon. friend the Member for South Islington spoke of those particular employees not being able to commence their career with a salary which would enable them to live comfortably he should like to ask him what service there was where the initial salary could provide for that contingency. Not only did the number of applicants show that it was a popular service, but that those who entered into it were satisfied with the terms offered. It had been shown by elaborate comparisons with other Departments that the employees of the Post Office were not only on an equivalent in the remuneration they were paid, but in a large number of cases they were in a superior position to the other classes of employees which had been mentioned, and that whether they judged by comparison of the number of the employees or the number of applicants for this particular employment, it was clear that there was no warrant from the public point of view for the expenditure of so large a sum of public money as they were asked to expend by adopting the conclusions of the Bradford Committee. The Postmaster-General had naturally considered the Report and the evidence, and he had been led to make a considerable amelioration in the position of a large number of employees. He was sure they must recognise that the sum he had mentioned was by no means an insignificant sum to give to the class of public servants which they were now discussing.

Something had been said about appointing a Parliamentary Committee. No worse tribunal could be appointed for considering questions of this kind—a Committee consisting of politicians whether of one Party or the other. There were employees of the Post Office who had bombarded Members of Parliament with letters day by day asking them to come down to the House of Commons and support their proposals. But these employees did not confine themselves to these letters, objectionable as he thought they were. They actually used threats—unmistakeable threats—at a time when a general election was within measurable distance, and that made things much worse from the point of view he was now discussing. They were asked at such a time to refer the wages of these people to a Committee consisting of politicians. There surely could be no more unfit tribunal for determining a matter of this kind, and the Government would be most wrong and badly advised if they consented to anything of this kind. He did not in the least deny that people in the public service should be allowed to make proper representations in order to obtain a remedy for any grievance under which they suffered, but he was perfectly certain that these letters continually coming from individuals in one's own constituency—sometimes a dozen in a day—was a wrong way to make representations. He was perfectly certain that representations made in a proper manner would always be considered by the Postmaster-General or any member of the Government whose Department was concerned, but this kind of representation the Government and the House of Commons were bound to resist to the utmost of their power. He was very glad to hear that the Postmaster-General had been able to make some amelioration and to adopt some of the proposals made by the Committee, but he hoped that he and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in considering what were the just demands of public employees, would also consider what were their duties towards the taxpayers of the country, and at a time like the present, when they groaned under very heavy taxation, he hoped they would set their faces resolutely against any such demand as that made on behalf of the Post Office employees.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) supported the Amendment moved by his hon. friend. The noble Lord said this agitation began in an application for a Parliamentary Committee in 1903. He begged to remind the noble Lord that when the application was made for a Parliamentary Committee in 1903, it was not for an inquiry into the question of wages alone, but for an inquiry into all the grievances alleged at that time to permeate the postal service. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer, on that occasion, when he found that the feeling of the House was against him, agreed to have the question of wages placed before the Committee. On that occasion he protested and said that the appointment of the Committee was merely to throw dust in the eyes of the postal service, and he thought he had been justified by the events which had taken place, because the findings of that Committee had, to use the words of the noble Lord, been brushed aside. Some miserable doles had been handed out to the men which could not possibly satisfy them, and which could only lead to continued dissension and agitation and loss of time in this House considering the grievances.

Several hon. Members had stated that considerable feeling had been aroused in England, Scotland, and Wales over the action of the Government in brushing aside the findings of the Committee. Speaking for Ireland he could only say that a feeling of indignation and disgust permeated the whole postal service in regard to the manner in which they had been treated in connection with these findings. The sorters, telegraphists, and postmen, one and all, were dissatisfied with the decision of the noble Lord in regard to these findings, and he could promise the noble Lord that every possible effort would be made to bring about a reversal of the policy he had adopted, and to have a Committee of this House appointed so that the full measure of their demands should be conceded. On May 11th, 1903, he ventured to make the following observations—

> "They were told that the Committee that the Postmaster-General had promised to appoint was to be an impartial Committee, but he believed that so far from dealing with the grievances it would have the effect of accentuating them, and that the complaints would all come up again. He therefore warned the postal servants to have nothing to do with it."

He was sorry to say that his advice was not taken at that time. The responsible officers thought it would be well to see what would be the findings of the Committee. They went to great expense for the purpose of getting up their case and they gave evidence before the Committee. After nine months the Committee arrived at their conclusions and reported that the wages of the postal servants were inadequate, and consequently they recommended an improvement in the scale. How had these recommendations been carried out? The noble Lord, in memorable words, had stated that the recommendations had been brushed aside, and a scale of increase had been adopted which was not commensurate with the demands which had been made upon him. It was not necessary for him to again quote the figures which had been given by the noble Lord. Comparisons had been made between the pay of compositors and that of postmen; but that comparison should have been all on the side of the compositor and not on that of the postman. He knew that because he was a compositor himself. A compositor after serving a five years apprenticeship began on full wages of 38s. a week; but it was only after a long term of years that a postal servant, even after he was fully competent, enjoyed a salary of £60 or £70 a year. The increase sanctioned by the noble Lord could not be accepted; and the sooner the House made up its mind to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to inquire into the whole question the better. It had been proved that seething discontent existed in the postal service, altogether outside the wages question. The Government had ignored the finding of the Bradford Committee, the members of which had been snubbed in such a way that it would be found difficult to appoint other Committees who would serve on such inquiries. The noble Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer must have forgotten that when an appeal was made to appoint that Departmental Committee, consent was not given until it was found that the strong feeling of the House was against them. The Chancellor of the Exchequer then said that—

> "For his part he was confident that by men of both political Parties he should be supported in his decision to take this question of the wages of the servants of the Post Office out of the sphere of Party conflict, and get a verdict which would be received with confidence."

Well, that Committee had been appointed, and its verdict had been given; but had it been received with perfect confidence by the Treasury Bench? On the contrary, the findings of that Committee, appointed by themselves, had not been accepted by the Government. What was the complaint against that Committee? That they did not go out of their sphere of reference and take evidence as a roving Commission in regard to wages paid in other trades. But that was unnecessary, seeing that the wages returns of all trades could have been found in the *Labour Gazette* for the last ten years. And what did the noble Lord, the present Postmaster-General, say on another occasion?—

> "All such questions as pay should be referred not to this House, but to some judicial body who could feel no outside influence, and look at the matter as between employer and employed, with the object of giving to the employed those wages which in the open market a good employer would give to his employees, and at the same time protecting the master from any outside influence."

Well, the Bradford Committee was a judicial Committee, but the noble Lord refused to carry out its findings. He advised the men at that time as to the course which they should take; and he was right. The men were justified in continuing their agitation for a Parliamentary Committee; but afterwards they gave their case away by giving evidence before the Bradford Committee. Now they saw their mistake; and their demand for a Parliamentary inquiry could no longer be denied. He thought that if the House wanted to settle this question once and for ever, that could only be accomplished by the appointment of such a Committee. The men themselves had promised that they would accept the finding of such a Committee. To talk about the interests of the taxpayer was all very well; but what about the money wasted in the South African War, in the doles to landlords, and in the South African stores scandals? He was sure that the taxpayers did not want this House to be shabby employers, but that they wanted to pay fair wages for fair work. It was, indeed, the duty of the State to pay its employees such a wage as to keep them from the starvation point.

***MR. GIBSON BOWLES** (Lynn Regis) said that he could not feel the same disregard to the interests of the taxpayers as some hon. Members appeared to have. Neither could he agree that because there had been extravagant expenditure in the South African War, therefore, there should be extravagant expenditure on the postal officials—if it could be called extravagant expenditure. The fault he himself found with the Treasury was that they paid far too little attention to the taxpayer. Every Member who came to the consideration of the point now raised—viz., whether the wages of the postal servants should be raised beyond their present point — approached it with a double allegiance and a divided duty. They had, in the first place, to consider it from the standpoint of allegiance to the taxpayers; and in the second place, with proper feeling for the welfare of the men in the postal service, especially for those in the lower ranks, whose wages he considered very small. He was not going into the question of the living wage. He did not know what that might be. It depended always on where a man lived, the man's own mind, and the prevailing fashion, and circumstances of the locality. After all, the question which the House was asked to ascertain and decide was what were the proper rates of wages to pay to postal servants? He could conceive of no tribunal less qualified to give a decision on that point than this House —either in itself or by a Select Committee of the House or by any such Standing Committee, as had been now suggested.

How were they to arrive at a proper rate of wages for a good piece of work? He knew of no other method than that pursued in the ordinary avocations of life. In those avocations, the rate of wages was arrived at by higgling and haggling and bargaining between employers and trades unions. They had trades unions as representative of the organised forces of the workers, who dealt with the employers. The employers were also organised; and when finally a figure was arrived at between them after negotiation, the employers had the enormous advantage that they might accept the decision as final and that it was perfectly certain it would be carried out. That was one of the great uses of trades unions, that they gave bargaining power to the workman and security to the employer. But in the case of the postal servants no adequate trade union was possible, because there was only one employer. The Post Office servants could not call out one section of employees so as to bring pressure to bear on another employer. Of course he was well aware that there was a very strong, compact body of Post Office employees, led by very capable leaders, who put their case in a very precise way. But they could not act, for many reasons, as other trades unions acted, and their only course was to circularise Members of this House with arguments in which persuasion certainly did too often approach menace. He hoped that Members of that House, while ready to consider argument, would never allow themselves to be influenced by menace, which would be found in the long run, not to help but to injure those who used it. The question then remained a specially difficult one—what were the proper wages? The Post Office employed 183,000 servants. Every variety of duty was fixed upon them, with, consequently every variety of remuneration, from the rural postman, who received a few shillings a week, to the noble Lord on the Treasury Bench, who received a relatively exiguous and insufficient salary. What Select Committee of that House, what Standing Committee, what permanent body of any sort, was competent to settle the salary of the noble Lord and the wages of the rural postman? It was perfectly impossible. They must really have worn the shoe to know where it pinched, and how the remedy was to be made. The noble Lord made what he thought was a very frank and manly speech, though the expressions "blackmail" and "blood-suckers" were, he respectfully submitted, too strong. There might be some leaders of the organisation to whom those terms might be applied, but he was certain that the great body of these public servants did not deserve them.

LORD STANLEY said he did not for one moment think of applying them to the whole service.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he was glad of that explanation. Without it the expressions would, he was sure, have unjustly wounded a very worthy body of public servants. He had personal experience of the unscrupulous methods adopted by individuals; but still the terms of the noble Lord could not be applied to the service generally. He thought the noble Lord had made what must be regarded as very considerable concessions indeed. They involved, to begin with, an additional charge on the taxpayers of £224,000, and when those concessions reached their maximum in ten or fifteen years that amount would be increased to £372,000 a year. Surely this was a very large increase in the wages of the postal servants. Hon. Members who argued that that was not sufficient, and who wanted another Committee, should first ask the postal servants whether they were now satisfied or not. He thought they probably would be. The Bradford Committee was not, he thought, very happily constituted and was no better fitted to fix rates of wages for the Post Office than would be a Committee of this House, for so special a case as the Post Office. The rate of wages must be arrived at and fixed by the people who knew and who were concerned. The test for a Department like the Post Office was whether there was a sufficient number of candidates to fill the vacancies, and no better test had yet been suggested. But even when the rate of wages was fixed it was only fixed for the moment. They could not fix it permanently, and in two, ten, or twenty years the whole question would or might have to be reconsidered. That was another argument against a Committee. He had come down to the House with a perfectly open mind on this subject, but, having heard both sides of the question, he felt bound to say that the Postmaster-General had made great concessions and had established a good case. The Postmaster-General had shown, moreover, a proper sense of duty in refusing to shoulder off his responsibility on any Select or Standing Committee. Consequently he should feel it his duty to support the Government.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.), referring to the grievances of the engineering branch and storekeepers, said whereas the idea, so far as he could see, was that more or less every branch of the service should have some addition to its pay, these employees had had their wages reduced and their hours increased. The maximum for linemen and battery men in past times was 40s. a week, but now it had been reduced to 38s. a week, while their hours had been increased from fifty and a-half hours to fifty-four hours a week.

LORD STANLEY said he had classified them differently, and there were more now at the higher rate.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS said the hours of these servants had been increased, and in respect of certain allowances they had well-founded grievances. Moreover, only 25 per cent. of them were on the established list, and he hoped his noble friend would undertake to increase that percentage. Then with regard to lodging claims. When he was in business years ago he always paid 2s. a day for lodging allowance where a man had to go about the country and sleep in a different bed every night. The Postmaster-General allowed 6d. What kind of bed could be got for 6d? He hoped the noble Lord would give his attention to these matters. If he did, he would find that these servants were anything but fairly treated.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) said his noble friend authorised him to say that he would look into the matters raised by the hon. Member for Salford. He hoped the Committee would not think it impertinent of him to intervene in the discussion, but he was doubly interested in the main subject of the debate, whether the Government were or were not justified in declining to adopt *in toto* the recommendations of the Bradford Committee. In the first place, as Postmaster-General, he was responsible for appointing that Committee, and in the second, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, the guardian of the public purse, he felt bound to place before the House his views when the public revenue was seriously threatened. Hon. Gentlemen had alleged that by his action in appointing this Committee he had bound himself in honour to accept their Report, whatever it might be, and to carry it into effect. The hon. Member for Huddersfield had quoted a phrase of his, in which he had spoken of his expectation or hope that he might obtain from the Committee an impartial and judicial decision. He thought it was too much to lay all this stress on a single word uttered in the course of a speech delivered in that House where no verbal preparation was possible; but, if those words were open to misconception, they were corrected in the course of the same debate; for, in reply to the hon. Member for Battersea, who accused him of shirking responsibility, he had said that he did not consider he was in any way derogating from his position by asking other gentlemen for advice, and that his responsibility must remain intact and undiminished.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE said that a fortnight later the right hon. Gentleman used these words—

> "I intend the Committee to be a Committee sitting to give judgment, and not a Committee sitting to advocate the interests of one side or the other."

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that was true, and what he had then laid stress on was the impartial character of the Committee. If he used any words which compared this Committee with a judicial tribunal it was in respect of the impartiality which he hoped would attend their deliberations, and which he thought was essential. But was there the idea in any man's mind at that moment that this Committee was to bring in a verdict which should be binding on both parties? His noble friend had already read some of the statements made by the employees or their representatives, and he would supplement them by a quotation from the *Telegraph Chronicle* of August 26th last year, actually after this Report had been published—

> "In writing to Members of Parliament it should be made very clear that we do not regard the Bradford Report as a substitute for that programme"—

the programme adopted at Liverpool—

> "That Report may be a concession, but it is not all. . . . We never recognised the impartiality of the Committee nor its fitness to deal with our case. We shall not accept its Report as a final settlement."

It was only the representatives of the taxpayer who were to be bound; the employees themselves were to be free to recommence their agitation to-morrow, even if to-day the House of Commons gave them all that for the moment they asked.

There were one or two general considerations. It was the desire of the House of Commons that the employees of the State should be fairly and even well paid, but they had other obligations besides. They were trustees for the great mass of the people, who under no circumstances could expect to be employees of the State; and the money with which they paid those who were selected for the service of the State was contributed by that great mass, often worse off, very often no better off, than the servants of the State themselves. They had a double duty in that House—a duty to be fair to the servants of the State and a duty to be just to the taxpayers, who could secure protection from none but the House of Commons. And if this was at all times true, it was especially true in times like these, when the burdens on the taxpayers were very heavy. By a single vote in the House of Commons they might increase those burdens by millions of money. There was a growing demand for fresh services to be undertaken by the public, and unless they were economical in the conduct of the services for which they were already responsible they would bring that movement to disaster. They would force public bodies of every kind to retrace their steps after the ratepayers and taxpayers had borne an enormous burden unless there was economical management of this great business. In his view, even the purity and integrity of public life was involved in this matter. The worst form of corruption that could be found in public life in other countries was due to the system which had grown up of employing more men than were needed to do public work and paying them rather more than their work was worth. In this way they gradually produced a system which rested upon corruption and which became part of their political life, and, once it had taken hold, they found it almost impossible to control it. To create a privileged class of public employees either doing less work or earning more pay than they could earn in good employment of a similar character outside was to strike at the root of our free institutions, to poison them at their source, and to vitiate all that followed from them. It was for that reason that in drafting the reference to this Committee he put in the words—

> "That the Committee, in making their recommendations, shall have regard to the conditions of employment of the classes they deal with, and to the rates of wages current in other occupations."

He ventured to say that that was the only standard by which they could test the fairness of the rates the Government paid.

His hon. friend had read the paragraph in which the Committee stated that they had not seen their way to obtain any specific evidence as to the comparative rates of wages current in other occupations. They explained this by saying that they had the Returns of the Board of Trade before them, and that they had had business experience of their own. If he had been relying only on their business experience he should have asked them to give evidence, and he should not have appointed a Committee to take evidence. But that was not all. Not only did they make up their minds not to take any of the evidence which was directly pointed to in the terms of reference, but they themselves had laid down principles which in their opinion should govern the State in these matters. The Committee said they thought postal employees were justified in resting their claims to remuneration on the responsible and exacting character of the duties they performed, and on the social position they filled as servants of the State. He did not know the exact meaning of that sentence, but he presumed it meant that they were to be in some way separate from and more favoured than any of their fellow-workmen in any employment not paid for by the State. That principle was a departure from anything that any responsible Minister or any responsible Government had ever accepted. It would leave wages either to a haphazard determination by the Minister of the day, or any equally haphazard demand which the employees might choose to make. Applying their principles the Committee went on to make the very remarkable statements which had been read by his noble friend. Those passages showed why it was not possible for the Government to adopt that Report and why no responsible Government, without a breach of their duty to the country, had ever adopted a Report based upon those principles. There would never be settlement for a day if they said it was only necessary for employees to express discontent in order to have the question of wages reopened and in order to be able to demand an increase.

The Committee having dealt with the matter as they had done, the Government had been forced to do for themselves that which they hoped the Committee might do for them. They had been obliged to make comparisons of wages for themselves, examples of which his noble friend had already given to the House. These comparisons showed, he said, that there was no justification for the wholesale increase in the wages of Post Office officials which the Bradford Committee recommended. Might he just give one or two other figures? Hon. Gentlemen might suppose from the way the case was presented, that little or no advance had been made in recent years in the salaries of the Post Office employees. Let him take one or two comparisons between 1885 and 1903, giving for each year the average weekly pay. The average weekly pay of male sorters in London in 1885 was 28s. 5d., and in 1903 it was 40s. 8d., a rise of 43·1 per cent. Male telegraphists in the Central Telegraph Office received in 1885 28s. 10d. and in 1903 40s. 2d., an increase of 39·3 per cent. In the rest of the United Kingdom male sorting clerks and telegraphists, who in 1885 earned an average weekly wage of 27s. 2d., received in 1903 an average wage of 33s. 2d., a rise of 22·08 per cent. Postmen of all grades who in the earlier year earned on the average 19s. 10d. had risen to 24s. 6d., showing an increase of 23·52 per cent. These increases were given before the additions which had been made by his noble friend. The Committee, therefore, would see how large had been the increase already given.

He asked the Committee to consider what would be the cost of doing that which they were asked to do to-day. His noble friend had given the figures showing what the recommendations of the Bradford Committee would cost if carried out. Did the Committee realise that, if the recommendations of the Bradford Committee had been in full operation this year, there could have been no reduction in taxation, and that the tea duty would have remained at 8d. instead of being, as now, at 6d.? Did they realise, what was a far more serious consideration, that the demands of the Post Office servants were only the beginning of the matter, and if they were conceded there were many other grades of Civil servants which must be treated on the same basis, to the great increase of the expenditure of the country? He did not hesitate to say that the demand represented by the Report of the Bradford Committee would mean at the very least an increase of the sugar duty by 50 per cent. That was the least which the taxpayers of the country were asked to pay in order that a privileged few might maintain their social position as servants of the State.

The question at issue was not one between the two political Parties. It was above Parties. It was whether there was to be good economical government in this country at all, or whether Civil servants in the employment of the Crown could make such use of their votes, as citizens, for the purely selfish purpose of forcing the public to pay more for their services and so increase the expense of a great Department of State. He did not know how long they could go on in the position they had now reached, under which pressure was brought to bear on hon. Members of all Parties by their constituents. He was certain that if any scheme could be devised, such as was foreshadowed by his hon. friend the Member for North Islington, so that they might take this question altogether out of the region of political life—not merely out of Party life but out of Parliamentary life—it would be a great advantage. It would tend to preserve the Civil Service free from that political influence and independent of the changing fortunes of political Parties which had been their great boast and security in the past. If there were a general feeling in the House that an object of that kind was one on which all Parties might well co-operate, then His Majesty's Government, whilst maintaining as resolutely as they had in past years their objection to referring these specific grievances to a Select Committee appointed in the ordinary way for that particular purpose, would be prepared to assent to the appointment of a Committee of this House to consider the state of affairs which had arisen; to see if they could devise some remedy for it; to lay down the principles by which they should be governed in these matters; and to advise whether it would be possible to establish some permanent body or Commission, outside the sphere of electoral pressure and above and beyond any of our Party conflicts, which might advise the Government in applying those principles to particular cases. Such a Committee could, of course, only be successfully conceded with the goodwill of all Parties in the House; and if the whole House were animated by a desire, if possible, to set this question at rest. With that goodwill, he thought, it might serve a useful purpose. The object to be attained was of such vast importance that he, for one, would not refuse any method by which they might hope successfully to compass it and to maintain the Civil Service in that high position of which, with its great traditions, they had such just cause to be proud and such good reason to be grateful for.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 206; Noes, 249. (Division List No. 248.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, NE (York, NR, Whitby
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt E.C(SAndrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain, F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, RtHn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. (Leicester)
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hunt, Rowland
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendail
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Muldoon, John
Murphy. John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid·
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.
O'Mara, James
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs).
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Nn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strachy, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James (Galloway)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)

Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters(NDorset.
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse,Sir J T(Hudd'rsf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Norton and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour. Rt.Hn.A.J. Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,Rt.Hn.Gerald W.Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.Sir Michael Hicks
Bhownaggree, Sir M.M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Glasgow
Campbell,J.H.M. DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Worc
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon, Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale,Rt.Hn.Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt.Hn.Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke,Rt.Hon.Sir William Hart
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,RtHn Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,RtHnSir J. Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ss Bgh's
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon.Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Philip S.(Warwick,S.W.
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rHamlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Greene,SirEW(BurySEdmunds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath,Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath,SirJ(StaffordshireN.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson,Sir A.(Stafford,W.)
Hill, Henry Staveley
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,John(KentFaversham
Howard, J. (Midd. Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt.Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,Sir Joseph(Mon'mth
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,HnH.L.W. (Mile End)
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants, Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas,Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell,RtHn SirHE.(Wigt'n.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner,Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray, C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George

Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie,Rt.Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,Sir H.(Renfrew
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,H.C(Northumb.Tyneside
Smith,RtHnJ Parker (Lanarks
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Hon.Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Edward Jas.(Somerset
Stanley,Rt.Hon.Lord (Lancs.
Stewart, Sir MarkJ.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G. (Oxf'dUniv
Taylor Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col.Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond,Rt.Hn. Sir WilliamH.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Worseley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF LONDON AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. BOUSFIEL (Hackney, N.) said he had been asked to support the Motion as a London Member. If the House would give dispassionate consideration to the Bill, they must necessarily come to the conclusion that, for good or evil, it would have an immense bearing on the future of London in the development of industrial enterprises. They would hardly find, among the keenest opponents of the Bill, any one taking the view that the supply of electric energy to London, at a price of somewhere about ¾d. a unit, would not be a boon of inestimable advantage to London. On the 600,000 h.p. machinery now otherwise propelled in London, it was estimated that an annual sum of about £3,500,000 would be saved by electrical power at such a figure, but the large gain to existing proprietors of machinery would be small compared with the advantage to London as a whole, industrially and economically. Cheap electrical power meant that they might have again that system of small industries carried on in London, especially in the East End, which had been gradually displaced in favour of large factories and companies with very heavy capital. It might mean almost a revolution in the conditions of labour in the East End of London. Apart from that, 250 large users of machinery all over London had united in petitioning that that Bill should pass. What had succeeded on the Tyne must necessarily succeed in London, where the price of coal was enormously enhanced; but it was one of the essentials for success of such an undertaking that it must be conducted on purely business lines and bring in the bulk of the users of power. It must be located where seaborne coal could be supplied, for cheap coal was the very crux of the whole thing, and this company had arranged for its supply to generating stations on the Thames at a maximum of 8s. 6d. a ton. Another condition of success was that very large units for the generation of power should be used, and the company proposed to use steam turbines of 20,000 h.p. capacity. A fourth requisite was that the supply of power should be constant and available at all times, quite independent of electric lighting.

Could the existing companies and municipalities do the work this company proposed to do with their existing plant? It seemed to him that their existing plant was unsuited for the work. They were founded for the supply of electric light, and at the time of the maximum demand for light practically the whole of their plant was taken up in the supply of light, and the location of their generating stations was absolutely inconsistent with economy in coal and the ability to supply power cheaply. It was said that they were already supplying power at 1d. or ¾d.; but that was only an *ad captandum* assertion. It happened that for a considerable period of the day in winter and for a longer period in summer they had plant more than sufficient to cope with the lighting demands, and, therefore, during such periods it paid them to supply power for the mere cost of the coal. He contended that it was only when power was sold as a by-product that the London companies and municipalities could sell it cheaply. But they could not supply power steadily at the same time that they were supplying the maximum demand for light. Therefore to supply the maximum demand for power more plant would be required. If they did it by combination—and he did not know how they could do that—they must raise the necessary capital exactly as this company was going to do, and must erect plant in the same locality and work on exactly the same lines.

Was the establishment of the proposed company fair to the existing companies and municipalities? He contended that it would be grossly unfair for the latter to try to monopolise the supply of power. Theirs were essentially lighting undertakings, and stood on a wholly different footing from the supply of power, which was just as much a by-product with them as coke was a by-product in the manufacture of gas. Then, again, the whole of their capital was profitably occupied with the supply of light and was only just sufficient for that purpose. There were clauses in the Bill which provided that the company should not supply power in the districts of existing undertakers without the consent of the Board of Trade, and if that consent was given the company would be placed under the same requirements as those undertakers were themselves. He believed it would be a great boon to existing companies and municipalities to be able to buy energy from this company on the terms on which it proposed to sell, that was to say, at a price at which they could not hope to produce it themselves. In his opinion the London municipalities had taken a wrong line on this Bill. Moreover, they were already beginning to see that it was to their true interest that this company should be established. Stepney, for instance, had agreed to take all further power from the company, and by so doing would save at a blow a quarter of a million of capital which would have had to be spent on generating stations. The supply of electric power to London would some day become as important as the supply of water, and it might be necessary in the interests of London to create an Electricity Board similar to the Water Board. If this were ever done, Parliament would have to decide who should be entrusted with the undertaking. He would only add that in order to avoid the possibility of excessive claims by the company in the event of a purchase of the undertaking in the future, the company suggested that the Select Committee should settle the terms of purchase now, and that such terms should exclude any allowance for compulsory purchase, goodwill, or prospective value. He submitted that nothing could be fairer than that. He hoped the House would give a Second Reading to the Bill. If the House took the responsibility on the Second Reading of withdrawing this Bill from the consideration of the Committee upstairs it might be doing an injury of great magnitude to London.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn) said he agreed that opposition should not be offered to this Bill unless there was some strong reason for doing so upon grounds of public policy. Whilst he was anxious to give London the cheapest supply which it was possible to give, he differed from his hon. friend as to the way in which that object should be accomplished. The House was asked to confer enormous and unprecedented powers of supplying energy upon a small speculative syndicate in no way connected with London. The company not only asked for powers in the Metropolitan area, but added the words "and adjoining districts." In the Metropolitan area and a great part of these adjoining districts there was already available a supply of electrical energy in the hands of local authorities and companies acting under statutory powers. The companies were bound to supply every one who required a supply, and at this moment, notwithstanding the assertions of his hon. friend, they were in a position to supply all present demands and all possible demands for all purposes at a price not exceeding a maximum which was liable to periodical revision by the Board of Trade.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): At what time?

MR. REMNANT said if the hon. Member opposite would wait until the finish of his remarks he should be very glad to give some facts which would satisfy even him upon that point. These statutory undertakings were open to purchase by the local authorities after a certain period, and they were debarred from combining. These obligations might have been rightly imposed at the time when they were imposed, but at present the companies would be glad to be free from them, and to group themselves together for the purpose of supplying electrical energy in bulk. In the belief that the Board of Trade would not give powers to any other body on more favourable conditions £14,000,000 of public money had been provided. It had been urged that power and lighting ought to be divorced from one another. On the contrary, if electric companies were to be commercial successes, it was desirable that they should not be obliged to confine their work to one branch of electrical energy.

The Bill was exceedingly unfair to the existing authorities. It proposed to allow a speculative syndicate to compete with them unhampered by the same restrictions, and to compete with them in the best and most remunerative part of the present supply. This unequal competition had been sanctioned by the Board of Trade, and it had been sanctioned although no fault had been found with the present companies or with the way in which they had been managed. Those companies had done their work extremely well, and no complaints were made against them; and yet the Board of Trade had sanctioned this free competition as against the restricted competition under which the companies now had to work. The existing companies came into working existence under circumstances and conditions which, in his opinion, rendered their unfair disturbance now an actual breach of Parliamentary faith. He wished to remind the House that in the year 1882 when it was first suggested that these statutory powers should be given to these companies it was proposed that they should only be granted them for a term of twenty-one years. It turned out that they were unable to get from the public a sufficient amount of money subscribed under those conditions to carry out their undertakings. They then applied to the Board of Trade, and after a considerable time had elapsed it was agreed that because the public would not subscribe the money at twenty-one years the period should be forty-two years; and now before that period had expired it was proposed to introduce a competitor into London free from the restrictions imposed upon the existing companies. Where were they going to draw the line? From what he could gather, they would be only too glad to have an opportunity of being free from the restrictions imposed upon them and of entering into free competition with any competitors the Board of Trade chose to allow to enter the area of London. Any monopoly on the part of the present companies was guarded against by a clause in the Act which allowed any competitor to come in, but that clause laid down also that any competitor should be subject to the same restrictions as they. If this Bill were allowed to pass the property of the companies would be diminished by no fault of their own, but because of a wrong impression that London itself was unable to supply all the electric power needed and that it was necessary to go outside and allow a speculative syndicate to come into London and take the best part of the area. The Lords' Committee recognised the hardships which would be inflicted on the companies, but in spite of that it was now proposed to allow the syndicate to come in unrestrained by the present restrictions imposed on the statutory companies.

He denied that the existing companies were unable to supply the total demand in periods of stress. He was afraid that upon this point the hon. Member for North Hackney could not have got his facts from headquarters. He would take one company as an illustration which was supplying over 40 per cent. of its total output for motive energy. [AN HON. MEMBER: Name.] The company he referred to was the County of London Electric Supply Company. This company supplied 11,000,000 units per annum, whereas their total capacity was 30,000,000 units per annum. What was true in this case was true in others. The great demand for electrical energy had only been created within the last few years, but, nevertheless, these statutory companies, realising that they would have to do their best for London, had invested hundreds of thousands of pounds in order to provide for the demand which they saw rapidly approaching. The company to which he had alluded, although hampered by the restrictions which had been imposed upon them by the Board of Trade, was supplying large consumers with electric energy for ·75 of a penny, or ¾d. per unit, and they had actually under offer the supply of power at a cost of ·45 of a penny. Great injustice would be done to the public if this proposal was admitted, for it would take away the most remunerative part of the area of the present companies. As far as he could see and hear, Parliament had never taken away rights which had been formally granted and upon the strength of which large sums had been expended. If this Bill were passed it would enable it to be said that business men could no longer rely on Parliament to protect the interests which it had itself brought into being and on the faith of which public money had been subscribed and invested. The passage of a Bill of this character would seriously and detrimentally affect public confidence in such undertakings, and would go a very long way in the direction of handicapping new industries in this country. He hoped the House would refuse to sacrifice the interests of the whole community for the aggrandisement of a speculative syndicate which came to London to do what London was quite able to do for itself.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea), in seconding the Motion for rejection, said that it was only the fortune of the ballot that sent this Bill to another place first, so that the London Members could not be heard on Second Reading. That was why the Bill should be debated now. The Committee of the House of Lords was entitled to respect; but its Members were less commercially-minded than the House of Commons; and they seemed to be innocent of the wiles of the provincial promoter. The Lords' Committee did not consider the most vital concession which had now been made by the promoters; they did not see the purchase clause which had been unloaded at the last hour to save this improper and dangerous Bill from destruction. That fact alone was sufficient reason for the rejection of the Bill. The new clause was not similar to other clauses of the kind. It was evasive, illusory, and indefinite as to the number of years, and innocent men like himself not used to Stock Exchange speculation, would say that it lent itself to marketable purposes more than similar clauses in existing companies Acts. The clause altered the Bill from top to bottom; yet neither the local authorities nor any of the other interests concerned had seen it, and it was really one of the most unsatisfactory attempts to avoid a Second Reading rejection he had ever seen. He was really surprised that the hon. Member for Hackney should appear as the advocate of an organisation formed for the purpose of exploiting London, seeing that only two years back he supported and backed a Bill, the object of which was to prevent such a possibility. But how many more London Members would take the same course?

MR. BOUSFIELD: The majority of them.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that would be seen when the division was taken. At any rate, they would not support the Bill for the reasons put forward by the hon. Member for Hackney, who said that he supported this Bill in the interests of small industries. Did the hon. Member wish to go back to the hand-loom and the paleolithic order of industry? If he did, this Bill was the very opposite of what he wanted; for it would crush out many small undertakings. In the words of the American saying, "Big fish eat little fish, and little fish have to eat mud," and when the hon. Member urged the acceptance of this Bill "in the interests of the smaller industries of the East End," he was defending the East End in a very remarkable way. The House heard a great deal about the unemployed in connection with this subject, and multi-millionaires had come to him with tears in their throats, "with bated breath and whispering humbleness," to say, "John, in the interest of the unemployed, support our Bill." But if the claim of the promoters was true, it would rather damage the unemployed, because its object was to cheapen production. But he would not trouble so much about that argument if this Bill were moral, honest, and equitable. The advance of machinery could not be resisted, and being an engineer he was all for cheap energy, cheap light, and the summoning of the latent forces of nature to do man's work. It was because he believed all this could be done better by other agencies that he opposed the Bill.

Then, as to the necessity for having cheap coal, many of the principal existing stations were already situated on the river, and some of the councils availed themselves of the use of canals, so that they were able to get river and seaborne coal quite as cheaply as this company would be able to do. As to power being a by-product, Shoreditch alone last year sold 2,300,000 units of energy for light and 1,200,000 units for power. How could it be called a by-product when from 40 to 50 per cent. of the total energy was supplied for power? The municipalities were not on the wrong line; they were where they were three years ago, when the hon. Member for Hackney supported a Bill for empowering borough councils to link up and buy out existing companies, and go in for a bulk undertaking. He appealed to provincial Members who attached importance to the principles of local government to support the municipalities of London. There were sixteen borough councils in London definitely against the Bill. Nearly all the extra-Metropolitan authorities whose jurisdiction the Bill invaded were also against it, and the City Corporation, which knew something about syndicates, especially in connection with electric light, was strongly with the borough councils against the Bill. Then there was the County Council, whose interest in this question was not that stated by his old employer Sir George Taubman Goldie in *The Times* that morning. Sir George Taubman Goldie represented that he was primarily responsible for the County Council being in opposition to the Bill. That was not the case. He admitted that he was fond of London, and generally stood up for it; but that was a virtue, not a fault. If he were twitted with standing up for the present companies, he would remind the House of the old saying, "Better the devil you know than the devil you wot not of." The thirteen companies had many faults, but they had passed through many troubles and difficulties; and when a private enterprise asked for a Parliamentary guarantee for a term of years, during which it would exhaust its shareholders' money in pursuit of a public object, Parliament ought to hesitate before casting these companies lightly on one side and subjecting them to an enterprise which had bigness for its justification, money for its present object, and lobbying and canvassing to an extent that would make a Philadelphia lawyer blush. There were twenty-nine private and public undertakings in London working to produce light and power, and the House was asked to brush them on one side, that the borough councils should "scrap" their £6,000,000 of plant raised by the money of the ratepayers, that the £14,000,000 invested in the thirteen companies should be ignored in the interests of an undertaking that had only bigness, but not greatness, as its claim to recognition.

The justification of the policy was that London would get cheap electricity, because the existing undertakings could not produce it. This was not the case. He would take one typical case. St. Pancras had invested £460,000 of public capital in electric power. Last year the borough's revenue was £75,000 gross, with a net profit of £20,500. That profit went to supplying local works of utility which otherwise the borough would have had to do without unless they raised extra rates. Moreover, the borough council was able to sell electricity for light and power at the present moment at ¼d. per unit less than the company had offered to supply them five years hence. The justification for this company coming in was that they would supply power at ¾d. in five years time. But before that date arrived St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Battersea, and nine or ten other borough councils would be able to supply it at prices ranging from 1d. to ½d. It might be said that a profit of £20,000 was too much. He would like to see the £20,000 profit of St. Pancras reduced by lowering the cost of light and power to consumers, but that was purely a matter for the Board of Trade.

Where was the proof that the company would supply more cheaply? Shoreditch obtained an offer from them to supply in bulk 750,000 units per annum, but their price was 1·25d., or ·25d. more than the rate at which Shoreditch could produce it for themselves. He could give nine or ten cases with similar figures. The charge for power by Fulham was 1d., Hammersmith 1d., Shoreditch ¾d., Southwark 1¾d., Stepney 1d., St. Pancras ¾d. to 1d., Woolwich 1¼d. to 2d., West Ham ¾d. to 1½d., Battersea 1¼d., Islington 1d., and Poplar 1d. to 1½d. Therefore so far as cheapness was concerned this Bill had no right to a Second Reading either for light or for power. It might be said that power was not cheap enough. Possibly not. But the way to cheapen it was not by reading the Bill of the company a second time, but by the Board of Trade pulling down the 10 or 14 per cent. dividends of the existing companies by applying to them the sliding scale which was applied to gas companies. He asked the House to remember also that the borough councils had succeeded in cheapening light and power under restrictions as to territory which were ridiculous.

But it might be asked what were the works costs of the borough councils. The works costs of the borough councils were rapidly going down year after year. Hammersmith in two years had reduced its works cost from 2d. to 1·17d. per unit, Shoreditch from 2d. to 1d. in three years, and St. Pancras from 2d. to 1d. in three years. The argument of the company was that they could do things on a larger and, therefore, cheaper scale than the borough councils, because they would get many big customers. But would they? They would not get Clifton Robinson's Middlesex Tramways, because they could produce power more cheaply than this company, therefore the largest extra-Metropolitan consumer was out of the question. They would not get the London County Council tramways, because in two years time the Council would have its own generating station on the riverside and would be producing power at ½d. Nor was it likely that they would get the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, when they electrified, as they were making other arrangements, and the District Railway would produce their own. The Lots Road Station cost £20 per kilowatt, and although this company said they would do it at £8, every engineer knew that they could not do it at less than the sum at which Messrs. Yerkes and Perks had installed their station.

The Bill was unprecedented and unfair. Under it the companies least able to resist would be attacked first, and by degrees the larger ones would be absorbed until in four or five years London would be in the hands of a large syndicate running on American lines, and would be faced with the same difficulties it had experienced in the past in connection with telephones, water, telegraphs, and other monopolies. Talk about London smoke was beside the question, for London smoke was disappearing from other causes. They had to thank Sir George Livesey and the introduction of 350,000 gas stoves for diminishing that nuisance. It would be a bad day for private enterprise and public probity when franchises solemnly and deliberately granted by Parliament, whether to private or public bodies, were torn up and ruthlessly thrown on one side. The effect of that kind of thing in America had been the introduction of an unscrupulousness in public life that he did not wish to see here, and to over-borrowing in the Colonies. The House might take it that when the hon. Member for Peckham and he were both opposed to the same Bill the reasons for their attitude were unanswerable. The eternal equities were on the side of both of them when they were fighting against a measure of this kind. It was because he believed that this measure was inimical to the best interests of London from every point of view that he seconded the Amendment, and trusted the provincial Members would put their financial speculation or private prejudices on one side and reject the Bill by an overwhelming majority.

MR. REMNANT, by leave of his seconder and the House, substituted for his Amendment the following:—"That this House declines to read the Bill a second time until the House has come to a decision upon the Supply of Electricity Bill."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out all the words from the word 'that,' and add the words 'this House declines to read the Bill a second time until the House has come to decision upon the Supply of Electricity Bill.'"—(*Mr. Remnant.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars) said he always listened with pleasure to speeches from the hon. Member for Battersea on occasions of this kind. His speech just delivered was even more interesting than usual, and what must have particularly impressed the House was the exceedingly eloquent way in which he protested against the "lobbying" of Members of this House in favour of this particular measure. He wished to say at the outset that the question before the House was not a Government question. It would be left to the decision of the House; there would be no Government tellers; but it must be obvious that this was exactly the kind of question which it was the duty of the Board of Trade to consider before it came up for decision in the House. Having considered it they must come to some opinion about it, and it was equally the duty of the representative of that Department in the House to state what that opinion was and give as discreetly as he could the reasons in favour of that opinion.

This particular subject had been most carefully considered by the Board of Trade for many reasons. He had himself received a larger number of deputations in regard to it than he had ever received on any subject of this kind since he was connected with the Board of Trade. He had, therefore, heard every point for or against the Bill from those interested in it. Considering this question from the point of view of what the action of the Board of Trade should be, it seemed to him that there were two considerations only to be kept before them. The first was, would this Bill give a cheap supply of power in a reasonable time for manufacturing purposes in London? The second, which he deemed equally important, was, admitting that a cheap supply would be given, could it be given without injustice to existing bodies—companies or local authorities—which were engaged in the supply of electricity? It was not possible to exaggerate the importance of a cheap supply of electricity for London, which was not only a great manufacturing town, but the greatest manufacturing town in the kingdom. That might surprise some hon. Members. He knew himself how important a manufacturing city it was; but until he had the figures looked up he had no idea that there were employed in factories in this city as many people as in Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, or any of the largest of our provincial cities. No single consideration, therefore, was more important than a supply of cheap power for London's machinery. That was proved, if necessary, by the fact that when the motive power was steam manufacturing centres grew up where there was a cheap supply of coal. Some Members of the House would hardly realise to what an extent, even in this country, during the last five or six years electricity had taken the place of steam as a motive power. In other countries, he was sorry to say, they were ahead of us in this respect.

It was evident that nothing could be more important to every manufacturer than that there should be a cheap supply of electricity for motive power. It was far more important for London for two reasons. First, in London there was a great amount of manufacturing on a comparatively small scale, and it was obviously impossible for the small manufacturer to afford to get the plant for driving his machinery. It was extremely important, then, in London, that there should be a cheap supply of motive power, which was easily subdivided, and could be taken on user on a small scale. Secondly, the price of coal was high in London, owing to the expense of handling it. This scheme proposed to get over that disadvantage; coal was to be used and electricity generated at the banks of the river, whence the power would be sent. This would to a large extent get rid of the handicap under which manufacturers were now placed in London through the comparatively high price of coal. Manufacturers were also often handicapped in London because the ground was particularly dear.

The object and justification of this Bill, if it had a justification, was that, owing to the size of London, electricity could be supplied cheaper there than anywhere else. The question was, however, would this Bill give a cheap supply such as he had described? His hon. friend the Member for Battersea said it would not give that cheap supply. This very point was debated for six weeks before the House of Lords Committee. The aim of the opponents of the Bill was to show that this claim for cheapness could not be justified, but as far as he could judge by an examination of the evidence that attempt completely broke down. There was one debating point which the House would appreciate. The learned counsel who supported the companies in the opposition to the Bill, a man second to none at the Parliamentary Bar, laid stress on cheapness not being everything. That was a familiar sentiment, with which he had a great deal of sympathy; but, if the learned counsel could have said, with any chance of being believed, that this claim for cheapness was unfounded and that the Bill would not give the cheapness, he thought counsel would have preferred that argument. There was another way of testing the question by experience. The promoters had been spoken of as a speculative syndicate. Of course all private companies were presumably looking after their own interests, and it was not any part of his business to examine that question. He noticed, however, that on that subject the Chairman of the Committee said it was unnecessary for counsel to say anything—that they were entirely satisfied on that point. So he thought it might be assumed that the syndicate were able to carry out the obligations they undertook. The promoters of the Bill were to a large extent the same men who had successfully carried out a similar undertaking on the Tyne, where there had been as a result little less than a revolution. The effect of that power company had been to change the whole appearance of the north side of the river, and some of the largest manufacturers had taken their electricity from the company, many of them actually scrapping their own electric plant because they could get power so much cheaper from the company. These facts seemed to him to prove that this method of centralisation was by far the cheapest way in which the motive power could be obtained. He was convinced himself that this Bill would undoubtedly give cheap power to the manufacturers in London, and from the Board of Trade and the public point of view he was bound to say that one consideration of more importance than any other was that the manufacturer should get that cheap supply of electricity.

Whether that could be done without injustice to the existing bodies was the second question, and he said at once that he was not going to speak in the same positive way at all in regard to that question. He did not feel competent to do it, and he thought, indeed, that it was a question that could not be fairly settled by a Second Reading debate in the House of Commons. *Ex parte* statements were made on both sides. The facts stated by the hon. Member for Battersea might be quite true, but they had no meaning unless they were examined. The hon. Member did not deny that unless the company supplied electricity for power purposes at ¾d. it could not get its standard dividend, which would be 8 per cent.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I compared light with light, average price with average price, and exceptional price with exceptional price, and if the hon. Member opposite goes into the matter he will find that in each case the prices are lower.

Mr. BONAR LAW said if that statement was accurate it entirely contradicted all the evidence that had been given to him on the subject. It was one of those statements which must be subject to cross-examination. At all events this company could not get its dividend if the average price exceeded three farthings. Therefore it must give electricity for power purposes at prices at which it had not been supplied up to now in London.

But this question should be referred to a Committee for another reason. If Committees of Parliament had one use more than another, it was to protect vested interests. The fact that a Committee of the House of Lords had passed the Bill with protection to the existing companies showed that they thought they had fulfilled that duty. He did not say they had. The proper course was to have their opinion checked by the opinion of a Committee of that House who could examine the protection given, and satisfy themselves that it was adequate. What was the nature of the protection given in this case? Who were the bodies who were said to be unjustly treated? The interest of the London County Council in the matter was really very small. Their interest really was in the future. They had themselves brought forward Bills on previous occasions, and they would like in the future to do very much the same thing that this company wanted to do. Frankly, he thought that was not the best way to get it done. It was a kind of business which could only be secured by extreme business push and energy, and by taking risks which local authorities ought not to take. He did not think the proposal of the County Council was practical politics. The Member for Battersea made a speech on this subject to the County Council a few months ago. It had been suggested that if they opposed this Bill they must have an alternative scheme. He was rather surprised at the indignation of the hon. Member in regard to Sir George Goldie's letter. He had heard many compliments paid to the hon. Member for Battersea, but he had never heard one equal to that contained in the letter written by Sir George Goldie, who mentioned the name of the hon. Member so many times that it gave one the impression that the London County Council and the hon. Member for Battersea were exactly the same identity. At the meeting he referred to the hon. Member replied with a simile derived from a pugilistic source, and said his alternative was a policy of "One down, the other come on." If that was the Council's policy, it did not hold out an early prospect of a cheap supply of electricity.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said his individual view must not be mistaken for the official view of the Council. He suggested that if the Council offered an alternative plan the existing companies would base upon it a claim for too generous treatment. His advice was that the Council should adopt the principle of "One down, the other come on." Then would be the time to make an alternative proposal. In the meantime, he appealed to the Council only to go on contending against this Bill.

Mr. BONAR LAW said he did not think his interpretation was very unfair. If that was the alternative, they would have long to wait for cheap electricity. He did not say that the existing companies would not be subjected to serious competition. But to say that they would be subjected to competition was not to prove injustice. It must be remembered that many of the existing companies had forced their way into localities that other companies or municipal authorities were already supplying, against the opposition of the existing authorities, and they were allowed to do so because Parliament supposed that competition was a good thing and not a bad thing. The companies now said that this competition was unfair competition. That was really the crux of the question. In what respect was it unfair competition? The first contention was in regard to purchase. That had now been dropped; but, as he understood, what the Committee of the House of Lords said was that they would be glad to leave the question of purchase in the hands of a Committee of this House to decide, and therefore this portion of the argument as to unfairness of competition fell to the ground. What was far more important to the companies, and what was really the difficulty of this Bill, was that the companies were limited in their area, while the administrative company was allowed to cover a very large area. A great deal of what had been said about the action of the Board of Trade was beside the mark. These companies were perfectly free, if they had seen that this demand was coming, to come to Parliament exactly as this company had done. But though these companies were entitled to justice and fair treatment, they were not entitled to a monopoly. If these companies had proposed to come in as a body amalgamated to supply power to the whole of London, it would really have meant that there would be a monopoly, whereas now, whether it was just or unjust, from the consumers' point of view this, instead of being a monopoly, tended in the direction of getting a cheaper supply of electricity. He held, therefore, that an amalgamation of these companies would have had no chance of passing Parliament, and if we were to have a cheaper supply of electricity at all, all that Parliament ought to do was to see that every possible protection was given to the existing companies.

The protection given by the Bill as amended by the House of Lords' Committee was a great deal more than hon. Members would have assumed from the speeches which had been made in that House. In the case of an existing company being able to supply as cheaply as the new company, there was absolutely no room for competition at all. The fact was that the company could not sell one unit of electricity in the area of any supplying company until it had proved to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade that they could supply at a price which the existing company could not touch, and before this clause about purchase was put in there was this further protection that, in making that estimate, the Board of Trade had to take into account that the companies were subject to purchase, and that allowance ought to be made for a sinking fund. But, assuming that the new undertaking could supply ever so much more cheaply than the companies, then there was protection, too. In that case the companies were entitled to go to the new body and say—"You are taking from us the cream of our business. It is not fair. We do not want to be left with what remains. You are bound to supply us with our total supply of electricity at a price which will enable us to sell to consumers and to make a profit." And the Board of Trade were to be the judge of whether that profit was reasonable or unreasonable. That seemed to be a greater protection than probably was ever given by Act of Parliament before. It really amounted to this, that in the worst case the companies could be sure of getting a profit without any risk. He was not competent to say whether that protection was adequate or not; but he did say it was an enormous protection, and it would rest with the Committee of this House, if the House allowed the Bill to go upstairs, to examine whether it was adequate or not, and, if it was not, to provide further protection, if further protection were possible.

The hon. Member for Battersea, dealing with the question of outlay, said that, if the new company came in selling electricity so cheaply, the municipalities who had an immense amount of capital invested in generating stations would have to "scrap" their plant. That was really a question of arithmetic. It came to this, that, if the existing companies found that they could get their supply so much cheaper than they could make it themselves, it would pay them to take it from the company, and still make a profit sufficient in a reasonable number of years to pay the value of their existing plant, then it would be good business to do that. Municipalities might find themselves in the same position as manufacturers on the Tyne, and find that it would pay them better to "scrap" their existing plant, because they could buy electricity for distribution at a cheaper rate than they could produce it. Another point should be kept in mind, and that was the danger from the growth of municipal indebtedness. It was stated in evidence on behalf of one of the best managed of the electrical lighting authorities that they had in contemplation the expenditure of £250,000 on generating plant, but when the Bill was passing through Committee they changed their minds, and came to the conclusion that they would be able to buy electricity cheaper than they could produce it, making an equal profit and being free from the obligation of the £250,000 indebtedness. The House should not lightly dismiss the possibility for municipalities obtaining electricity at this cheap rate. After all, the interest of a municipality was not in making a profit out of what they sold, their interest was the prosperity of their district. If it was a fact that they could obtain the electricity cheaper, then there was a good case for the Bill.

Mr. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said that no one could have listened to the interesting speech of the Secretary to the Board of Trade without seeing that there were important points involved in the Second Reading of the Bill now before the House. No one could deny that it was of great importance, particularly in the East End of London, that electricity for manufacturing purposes should be supplied as cheaply as possible. Whether a cheaper supply of power could be given for those purposes depended entirely on the nature of the area and the conditions under which the supply was to be given. If the existing producers of electrical power were to have the same facilities as were proposed to be given to the new company under this Bill, then he said they could supply it at as cheap a rate for manufacturing purposes. He admitted that nothing could be more important than the question of a cheap supply in the reasonably immediate future, but he did not believe that either in the immediate future or the long run they would attain that result by overloading the electrical industry with capital. It was a strong element that they should have the supply of light and power in the same hands. There could be no doubt that electricity could be supplied at a cheaper rate when the supply for light and power was in the same hands. The important point upon which the Secretary to the Board of Trade expressed some doubt was whether the powers in the Bill could be given without injustice to existing bodies supplying electrical energy. Who were the existing bodies? The existing bodies were really the ratepayers and the shareholders of any existing company, and, as regards those two interests, there ought to be no difference of treatment at all. Both were entitled to fair treatment; and the whole question was this—Could they give the powers sought in this Bill, having regard to the conditions imposed on existing authorities and the companies, without treating them unfairly in the sense of breaking a Parliamentary bargain on the faith of which they had invested their money in the undertakings? No terms which the Committee laid down could possibly take away the initial injustice which would certainly be done if the House gave a Second Reading to this Bill.

This question began in 1882, when the terms and conditions were so hard that the progress of the electrical industry was practically stifled in this country. It was stifled because the then Board of Trade imposed such hard conditions that no capitalist would come forward and invest his money in the electrical-energy industry of this country. The result was that an Act was passed in 1888 giving better terms, and, to his mind, the whole question of justice, so far as the Second Reading of this Bill was concerned, turned on those conditions. Having recalled to the House what were the restrictions and limitations imposed by the Board of Trade within the London area, the hon. Member submitted that the fact that the Bill had somehow been read a second time in the first instance before the House of Lords was no reason why this House should not exercise its independent judgment, and, if the House came to the conclusion that the powers now sought could not be granted without injustice to, and unfair competition with, existing interests, they ought to throw out the Bill. If this Bill were passed they would have a company with practically unlimited area, not subject to any of the restrictions which now affected existing companies, placed in a position of unfair competition contrary to the whole policy of the Act of 1888 and to the settlement arrived at since. It would in the end mean wasting a large amount of capital and be an additional burden upon that cheapness of supply which all admitted to be necessary. At the present moment something like £20,000,000 was invested in the London area in electrical supply, partly by ratepayers and partly by shareholders, and he protested strongly against the rarepayers being subjected to that unfair competition. They gave unfair competition to the detriment of every one who had found capital on the bargain originally made under the Board of Trade and sanctioned by that House whenever a Provisional Order had been brought forward. It seemed ludicrous to hear the Secretary to the Board of Trade talk about the small concern. Under the existing powers the companies were bound to supply the small concern.

MR. BONAR LAW: My hon. friend is distinctly mistaken as to the facts. If this company comes into any area it comes under the same obligation to supply anybody in it as any other company.

MR. CRIPPS said it would not go into the poor areas, but into those areas where they got the cream of the business. That was not the position of the existing companies, which were bound to go there.

MR. BONAR LAW: If they do not go into an area then they cannot compete. If they do compete, they must go into the area.

MR. CRIPPS did not think that was an effective argument. He contended that they would leave poor areas. That took away the argument as to cheap supply to poor areas, and made the competition most unfair.

MR. BOUSFIELD said this company could not compete with any company at all unless it undertook the whole obligation of that company as regarded supplying throughout the area of that company, whether the area was rich or poor.

MR. CRIPPS said that what the hon. and learned Gentleman said did not touch his point, because a power of selection of the richest areas would be given to this company, whereas the old companies had to bear the burdens and obligations to which he had referred. Let them maintain in Parliament the great principle which was the greatest encouragement to capital and industry—namely, that the poor or the rich man in subscribing to an undertaking under a Parliamentary bargain should be able to feel certain that that bargain would be observed. That was the great principle they were discussing on the Second Reading of this Bill. He was not going into the minor matter relating to St. Pancras or into the question of municipal trading, but the shareholders of the existing companies were entitled to be protected. The initial mistake—if mistake it was—was to give them these powers, but, having given them, the companies should not be treated in an unfair and unjust manner. The House would be well advised, whatever might be done in a Committee of the other House, not to be led away from that great principle by this cry of a cheap supply of power for London.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that in the few words he wished to say on this subject he need hardly say he spoke for himself. The question had been debated at great length and with great ability. He did not propose to discuss the question either of the right or claims of the municipalities or the vested interests of existing companies. He only wished to deal with what struck him as the broad, general position in which the House found itself. This was a proposal to create a gigantic company which was likely to absorb and dominate the whole power supply of London. He would not call it a monopoly, because the promoters denied that it was a monopoly; but he thought it was, at any rate, very likely to become a monopoly. There were two other plans before the House; the plan of leading the smaller companies to do that work; and the plan of leading the municipalities to do it. The House was not at present in a position to express any opinion on such large and great issues as these were. He contended that the House could not in a debate of three hours deal with all the questions involved in this proposal. Nor was this a matter, as it appeared to him, fit for the deliberation of an ordinary Private Bill Committee, especially a Committee which was to be appointed in the middle of July. These vast proposals ought to have been examined and determined by a strong special Committee like that which had dealt with the general question of electric power supply. In its ultimate results this question was quite as large as the question of London traffic, which had been investigated by a Royal Commission. Parliament had to think of the general interests of the people of London. Were those questions fit for a Private Bill Committee? He was told that it was a hardship to the promoters to put them off another year. If that were the case, still it was no reason why the House should now take this decisive and irrevocable step. Without expressing any opinion as to the merits of the scheme or the decision which the House might ultimately take, he could not but feel that a Bill of this immense magnitude and of such far-reaching consequences ought not, without very much further inquiry than could be given at this period of the session, to be left to a Private Bill Committee.

Mr. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said his right hon. friend had introduced a new suggestion into the debate, which came for the first time—viz., that the main question was not for this House to deal with at the present time. He could not but think that the question was essentially one for this House to determine. He should have thought that the House had nearly all the materials they desired for forming a judgment on the broad question. He should have thought that the question involved in the Bill was not one for any Commission or Parliamentary inquiry of this kind, but one of broad principle for the House to decide upon. In the East of London there was an enormous area which was very insufficiently, if at all, supplied with electric power. The total machinery employed was equal to 497,000 horse power, and the present electric lighting authorities were only capable of supplying 16,172 horse power. That showed, in itself, that there was a want in London which, to his mind, was essentially one for the consideration of this House. Electricity was as essential as machinery; without it we could not possibly keep up to the modern and industrial standard. It was impossible that justice should be done to the industrial chances of the people of London unless some step of this kind were taken. That was a broad question for the House to decide upon—was this to be done or not? He would like to ask his hon. and learned friend opposite whether he held that after an exhaustive inquiry into this matter before a Committee of another House they should reject the Bill *in toto* and should not send it upstairs even for inquiry. If the Bill went upstairs it would be open to further consideration. Why were the existing companies afraid, if it were true that they could supply power at ¾d.?

MR. REMNANT: What about the conditions laid down by the Board of Trade? That is the main point. All these companies are subject to a bargain entered into with the Board of Trade.

MR. HALDANE said surely the hon. Member heard the speech made by the hon. Member who represented the Board of Trade.

MR. REMNANT said it never touched the point.

MR. HALDANE would have thought that the speech of the hon. Member for Glasgow touched the point most closely. He shown clearly that the Board of Trade had imposed this condition, that they took the obligations in regard to the sinking fund into account in allowing a differential rate to the private companies. He would have thought that the hon. Member had shown most clearly that the Board of Trade took into account all the obligations which the private companies were under. But there, again, the question was surely one for the Committee upstairs. It was a complicated and difficult matter which had to be looked into most closely, but why should they reject the Bill on that account? These were not days in which we could stand still. The House of Commons, after all, had to look to the interests of the industries of the country. When they found the petition of these people put up for greater industrial facilities, when they found an opportunity of giving them the chance of putting themselves on a level with their competitors, then he would say that the House should pause before it rejected such a Bill as this. He trusted that no mistaken notion of the rights of municipalities would prevent the House from sanctioning the principle of a measure which at least would give an opportunity of considering whether something substantial could not be done to further the industrial interests of the people of London.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe said that, having given much time to the consideration of the question, and having listened carefully to the debate, he had no hesitation in according his vote against the Second Reading of the Bill. He asked the House to pause before giving the Bill a Second Reading. It involved not only the question of electricity, but the much greater question which was so ably put before the House by the hon. and learned Member for Stretford, of Parliamentary guarantees. That was the point which weighed most in his mind. He desired to draw the attention of the House to a Return of last session respecting the granting of powers for electric supply to a number of companies throughout the land. Parliament had granted in 1901–2–3 large powers to various companies all over England for the supply of electric energy, and yet in many large areas very little progress had been made in the exercise of these powers. In the Midland counties these powers had been granted too hastily. In fact, the only part of England in which the Return showed that these powers were carried out to any satisfactory purpose was the district of Newcastle. But Newcastle stood on its own feet, and they could not prophesy what this company might do in London from what its promoters, who were the same persons, had done in Newcastle. He did not know the amount of capital laid out in electric undertakings in London by municipalities and companies was, but it must be very large indeed. It could not be just to allow a new company to come in on much better terms. The main question was the Parliamentary bargain which had been entered into, and he hoped the House would not tamper with that bargain. The matter might well wait, as the right hon. Member for Aberdeen suggested, for inquiry by a strong Committee. He hoped the House would refuse the Second Reading.

Mr. GUEST (Plymouth) said it had been conceded that on this occasion the House of Commons had a very difficult duty to perform, and that difficulty had been aggravated by importing into the Second Reading debate questions which properly belonged to Committee. His hon. friend the Member for Battersea had given some figures to the House, but these differed from the figures given in evidence before the House of Lords Committee; and it was perfectly obvious that they were at present quite incompetent to decide which set of figures was correct. He contended that this Bill offered to London the brilliant and flattering prospect, from a commercial point of view, of being transformed from the worst equipped to the best equipped industrial centre in the world. It seemed to him that it would be wrong to reject, on the slender evidence before them, a scheme so fraught with profit to London and certain to react on all the conditions of labour. At any rate he insisted that a *prima facie* case had been made out for a Second Reading. The great question raised had been that of doing justice to the existing companies; but it was perfectly obvious that their special claims could not possibly be considered by this House under present conditions. Committees existed for the purpose of adjudicating between various conflicting interests, and he thought it would be a very unfortunate thing if the Bill were not sent to a Committee.

Mr. CUMMING MACDONNA (Southwark, Rotherhithe) rose to state that both sides of the House by their action had adopted and hitherto adhered to the principle that local authorities should have the management of their own affairs. The Liberals when they brought in their Local Government Bill by the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton, and the Conservatives acting in the same manner when introducing the Boroughs Bill for London. It was a strange anomaly that now, when the opportunity had arisen for the exercise of their just rights, they both should be ridden over rough-shod by a syndicate from Newcastle, he earnestly protested on behalf of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe against so great an injustice.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 198 ; Noes, 158. (Division List No. 249.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bartley Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropshr.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Brymer, William Ernest
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thomas H. A. E
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A Cameron (Glasgow)
Crombie, John William
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark NE
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'mlets
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hardy, Laurence Kent, Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords. NW
Heaton, John Henniker
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hill, Henry Staveley
Hobhouse, Rt. Hn H. (Somers'tE
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks NR
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Montagu, G. Huntingdon
Montagu, Hon, J. Scott (Hants.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Moss, Samuel
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newnes, Sir George
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Malley, William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, Herbert Pike Darlington
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, S. Forde
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rose, Charles Day
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Slack, John Bamford
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C. (North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, Rt. Hn J. Parker (Lanarks
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (Northants.
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M
Stock, James Henry
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strutt, Hon. Charles Healey
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset

Wilson, A.Stanley (York,E. R.
Wilson, John Glasgow
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Rt.Hn,E.R. Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Bousfield and Mr. Tennant.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bailey, James (Walworth
Baker, Joseph Allen
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boulnois, Edmund
Brigg, John
Bright, Allen Heywood
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Buxton, NE.(York,NR,Whitby
Buxton, SydneyCharles(Poplar
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Partick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Chapman, Edward
Cheetham, John Frederick
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Devlin, CharlesRamay(Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Rt.Hn.Sir JosephC.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, Sir George
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dyke,Rt.Hn.Sir William Hart
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Fellowes, Rt. Hn. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Philip S.(Warwick,S.W
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,Sir E W(B'rySEdm'nds
Groves, James Grimble
Hammond, John
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford,W.
Higham, John Sharp
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Hutchinson, Dr. CharlesFredk.
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol, S.
Lough, Thomas
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parrott, William
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reddy, M.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John George
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thornton, Percy M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tuff, Charles
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Remnant and Mr. John Burns.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 2) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question 'proposed "That the Bill be now read the third time.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) moved that this Bill be rejected, and did so simply to call the attention, not perhaps of the House, but of the public to the very shocking system of maladministration of martial law in the British Army at the present time. When the Army was put under exceptional legislation, as it was by the Army Annual Act, and when certain liberties were taken from the soldiers, there was this protection, that there should be a Minister in this House responsible to this House for the way in which the exceptional law was administered. The Judge-Advocate General had always been a man of considerable eminence at the bar, and he was made a Privy Councillor. And why? Because the Army was still the King's Army. He was a Minister, not only responsible to this House, but to the King. It was his prerogative to approach the King personally, and lay before His Majesty the letters of Courts-martial and give the King advice in reference to these Courts-martial. The Judge-Advocate General was also responsible to this House by way of Motion and interjection as to how martial law was administered. On several occasions Commissions were appointed to make inquiries with reference to the way in which this House should be made cognisant of the administration of martial law; and the last Commission reported that the office of Judge-Advocate General should be maintained. Then came the appointment of Sir Francis Jeune, afterwards Lord St. Helier, in 1892, who continued in office until 1904, with Sir John Stocks as Deputy Judge-Advocate General. But now, under this constitutional Government, there was no one responsible to the House as to how martial law was administered! The present gentleman who acted as Deputy Judge-Advocate General was not a Minister in this House; he was not a Privy Councillor, and had no right of personal access to the Crown, and could not even be appointed to a County Court Judgeship. He maintained that that was an intolerable position. The duty of the Judge-Advocate General was to revise the decisions of Courts-martial. In 1900 there were 17,794 Courts-martial, forty-seven of the decisions of which were quashed. In 1901 there were 19,000 Courts-martial, the decisions of sixty-seven of which were quashed; and in 1902 there were 14,000 Courts-martial, the decisions of forty-seven of which were quashed. On occasion the Deputy Judge-Advocate General had to review the decision of as many as twenty-four Courts-martial in a few hours. That would be laughable, but it was cruel to the men who were subject to it. He would give a concrete instance. A Court-martial was held a short time ago in a town in Ireland on a young lad who had been betrayed into one act of drunkenness. The unfortunate boy was arrested, tried by Court-martial, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment. But in the same regiment a well-favoured serjeant had been three times convicted of drunkenness and let off with a caution. In order to protest against the way in which martial law was administered, he moved that this Bill be read a third time this day six months.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) seconded the Motion.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months'"—*(Mr. Swift MacNeill.)*

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.) said that last year the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition raised a discussion as to the constitutional character of the appointment to the office of Judge-Advocate General and suggested that that official should be an independent person, a man of sufficient authority; he ought not to be an unkown or obscure person, but a gentleman learned in the law. With all these suggestion- he entirely agreed. It was true that since the death of Lord St. Helier there had been an *ad interim* administration of this very important office. The tenure of this office by Lord St. Helier was exceptional and without precedent, and it had been necessary to consider carefully the best method of continuing the office after that exceptional tenure had expired. It had now been decided to follow in this matter the example of the Admiralty, and to appoint to this office not a Judge of the High Court, but a lawyer of eminence, who would satisfy all the conditions laid down by the Leader of the Opposition. The gentleman who would be selected would be appointed to this office alone. He would be a Civil servant, and would give the whole of his time to the work of his department. He would be appointed, as the Judge-Advocate of the Fleet was appointed, to do work for the Army corresponding to that of the Judge-Advocate of the Fleet for the Navy.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL asked if this gentleman would be amenable to Parliamentary criticism?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he would be amenable to Parliamentary criticism in the same way as the Judge-Advocate of the Fleet was. He would be appointed by the Secretary of State. His salary would be placed on the Estimates, and the representative in this House of the War Office would be responsible for him just as the head of the Navy Department was responsible for the Judge-Advocate of the Fleet.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 250.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Foster, Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn.A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, RtHn Gerald W.Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hon.AllenBenjamin
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bingham, Lord
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brymer, William Ernest
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A.(Worc.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley

Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Fellowes,Rt.HnAilwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. EdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Philip S.(Warwick,S.W.
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, HnJE (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Greene, SirEW (B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath,SirJames(Staffords.N.W
Hill, Henry Staveley
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William

Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Montagu, Hon.J.Scott(Hants.)
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Mount, William Arthur
Nicholson, William Graham
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George

Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Smith,H.C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,RtHn JParker(Lanarks.
Stanley, Rt.Hn.Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H.(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E
Allen, Charles P.
Baker, Joseph Allen
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Buxton,NE(York,NR,Whitby)
Caldwell, James
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Devlin, Joseph (Kilkenny, N.)
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Goddard, Daniel Ford

Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hayden, John Patrick
Higham, John Sharp
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent P (Cavan,W
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy Maurice
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)

O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Reddy, M.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Seely, Maj. J.E.B.(IsleofWight
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Toulmin, George
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. MacNeill and Mr. Nannetti.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1901) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) asked what would be the business on Wednesday and Thursday next. He had the authority of the hon. Member for Waterford to state that in view of the great public interest taken in the question of the Volunteers he would not insist on Irish Estimates being taken on Thursday. He acknowleged the great courtesy of the hon. Gentleman in the matter.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said he wished to remind the House that there was one more allotted day, as far as he could judge, for the Army Estimates. He preferred to wait and give an Answer on Monday as to the business for Wednesday and Thursday next, especially as to the arrangements that could be made for a discussion on the Volunteers. The Secretary for War would prefer a day for the discussion of Army questions at a later period of the session, but the Government would yield to the wishes of the Opposition. On Wednesday he hoped to finish the debate on the Scottish Churches Bill.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said he recognised the importance of the Volunteer question to England; but he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not postpone his Answer until Monday. A number of Irish Members were in Ireland and he hoped that a reasonable notice would be given before Irish affairs were discussed.

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said that there had not yet been a definite statement given as to the future of the Volunteers. There was considerable apprehension in the matter; and a definite explanation should be given.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington) said that hon. Members from Ireland sometimes attended the House at considerable inconvenience. He had arranged next Thursday for Irish Supply; and when he was suddenly asked to change Irish Supply into English Supply he could not arrange it in a few hours.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N. asked if only one more day was to be given to the Army.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that there was a general feeling in the House that the question of the Volunteers and the Militia was a matter for immediate discussion.

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE (Leeds, W.) said that the Opposition would be glad to have the right hon. Gentleman's views on the subject to-morrow.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he should be glad to accede to the request of the right hon. Gentleman.

Question put, and agreed to.

———

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the borough of Carlisle, in the room of the right hon. William Court Gully, now Viscount Selby, called up to the House of Peers.—(*Mr. Herbert Gladstone.*)

Adjourned at two minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 7th July, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Malvern Water.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for the Dover Harbour Bill ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

Read, and agreed to.

Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

London Gas Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 1) Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Dublin United Tramways Bill. Committee to meet on Tuesday next.

Dover Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Presented, and read 1ª.

Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Donovan's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.]; Mansfield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill (No. 127); Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill (No. 128). Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Sections 9 and 16), deemed to have been read 2ª (*The Marquess of Linlithgow*), and reported from the Committee.

London Government Scheme (Hackney and Edmonton Unions) Bill (No. 129); London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill (No. 130). Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. House to be in Committee on Monday next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill [H.L.]. House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Building regulations, being principles to be observed in planning and fitting up new buildings for public elementary schools, together with rules as to construction and certain requirements as to plans.

IRISH LAND ACT, 1903.

Regulations made by the Lord-Lieutenant in pursuance of the provisions of Section 23 (8) of the Act.

ARMY (VOLUNTEERS).

Circular letter addressed to General Officers Commanding-in-Chief.

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 450. Wei-hai-Wei (Report for 1904).

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3433. United States (California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona).

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

General report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

POST OFFICE (INLAND POST) STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1905, No. 781.

The Inland Post Amendment (No. 2) Warrant, 1905, dated June 26th, 1905 Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 2) BILL.

Brought from the Commons and read 1^a. (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended), Bill read 2^a. Committee negatived. Bill read 3^a, and passed.

COAL MINES (WEIGHING OF MINERALS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next.—(*The Lord Newton.*) (No. 125.)

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO CROPS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 126.)

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896, ETC., CONTINUANCE BILL.

House in Committee (according to order. Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

NILE STEAMERS.

Lord MUSKERRY: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether it is a fact that the Hamburg-American Company have placed, or intend placing, river steamers on the Nile to run in competition with lines owned by British subjects and subjects of the Egyptian Government; and to ask for information on the subject.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of Lansdowne): My Lords, I am sorry I was not here last night to reply to the noble Lord's Question. The Answer I have to give him now is that the fact, if it be a fact, to which he refers has not been reported to us by our representatives in Egypt; but as soon as I saw the notice on the Paper I caused inquiries to be made.

LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AT SEA.

Lord MUSKERRY rose to call attention to the number of cases where, during the past four months, at the port of Liverpool, life-saving appliances on board merchant ships were found defective by Board of Trade surveyors, and ordered to be destroyed; and to ask the number of examinations and reports at Liverpool of similar cases of defective life-saving apparatus in the previous four months, namely, September, October, November, and December, 1904. The noble Lord said: My Lords, it is not so very long ago that I called your Lordships' attention to this subject of life-saving—or alleged life-saving—apparatus on board merchant ships. I must confess that, with the exception of one particular point which he advanced, the reply of the noble Duke who answered on behalf of the Board of Trade was to me of a most unsatisfactory nature. This is not the second or the third time on which I have pointed out the inefficiency of the supervision of the Board of Trade in carrying out the duties imposed upon it by the life-saving regulations. Therefore the noble Duke, in raising the point to which I have referred, quite unconsciously gave away the whole case for the Board of Trade. As illustrating how vigilant the Board of Trade's officials were in this matter, he informed us that in the past four months at Liverpool there were 674 vessels examined, and in seventy-eight cases the life-saving appliances were found to be defective and ordered to be destroyed.

We have here an official admission that over 11 per cent. of merchant vessels visiting one port in the short space of four months possessed life-saving apparatus dangerous to their passengers and crews. I would ask your Lordships whether such a startling admission does not amply warrant me in drawing public attention, when possible, to what amounts to a grave scandal? It is quite a novelty to me when I find the Board of Trade justifying their position by quoting the large number of cases they have detected through the vigilance of their surveyors. But their new-found vigilance at Liverpool only serves to show that there has been something radically wrong in the past to admit of such an alarming state of affairs. As I like to see any credit for improvement allotted to the proper quarter, I am curious to know whether there has not been a considerable increase in the number of ascertained cases of defective life-saving apparatus at Liverpool since the Merchant Service Guild—which has its headquarters at that port—made strong representations to the Board of Trade at the latter end of last year, at which time, through the medium of two of their representatives, they proved to the Board's principal officer at Liverpool cases where life-saving apparatus was nothing but a delusion and a snare.

That the Board of Trade have now turned to the Liverpool figures of detection as a sample of their efficiency is, to me, very significant. It looks very much as if those like the Merchant Service Guild and myself who have had official cold water poured over them so often in this matter, are really responsible for the disclosures which have been brought about by more efficient official inspection at Liverpool. At that port there is a principal officer who is fairly new to his position. From what I hear he is an able, painstaking, and conscientious officer, and what is more he is of a type of surveyor with practical seafaring experience, which requires, as I have often said, to figure to a much greater extent on the Board of Trade list of surveyors. But Liverpool, after all, is only one shipping port amongst many in this country. The class of ship visiting that port is undoubtedly higher than at most other ports. Therefore, given the same inspection, there is no possible doubt that cases of defective life-saving apparatus at other ports would be still more numerous.

The Liverpool figures are, I consider, quite sufficient to justify my bringing the subject once more to your notice; and I will only add, in conclusion, that they illustrate to the full how inefficiently our life-saving regulations have been carried out by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade, and how necessary it is that they should be compelled to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Unseaworthy Ships by appointing more nautical surveyors. I would remind your Lordships that there is only one nautical surveyor in the whole of Scotland, and only fourteen in the rest of the United Kingdom.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Duke of MARLBOROUGH): My Lords, I do not know why the noble Lord who has put this Question should consider that the statement which I made on the last occasion when we debated this matter gave away the whole case for the Board of Trade. A more inaccurate conception I do not think could have been possible, for, after all, what was the gravamen of the charge brought by the noble Lord? He said that he did not think the supervision on the part of the officials of the Board of Trade at our big ports was either efficient or sufficient, and in reply I stated, in order to refute that charge, that at Liverpool alone during the first four months of this year 674 vessels had been visited, and that in seventy-eight cases the life-saving appliances had been discovered defective. The noble Lord seems to think that those figures show an alarming state of affairs. He assures your Lordships that that is a very high percentage of cases in which defective life-saving appliances exist. I am surprised that the noble Lord did not, before he made that statement, inquire as to the kind of defects that do exist. If he had, he would have found out that they are really of a very small and trivial character. The surveyors report that the defects are by no means of a serious nature, being connected chiefly with the fastenings of the life belts. The noble Lord really regards this matter from a totally wrong standpoint. He thinks the number of cases in which defects have been found shows an alarming state of affairs, but the Board of Trade hold the view that what has occurred demonstrates that the supervision on the part of their representatives is real and genuine. If a high standard is insisted on, and an efficient system of supervision is carried out, clearly the number of cases required to be dealt with is likely to be higher than it would otherwise be.

The noble Lord asks that the number of examinations and reports at Liverpool of similar cases of defective life-saving apparatus in the previous four months — namely, September, October, November, and December, 1904, should be given. I am informed that there is no exact or complete record of the vessels which have been visited, but I am able to assure the noble Lord that over 500 vessels received a visit from the officials, and that out of that number it was discovered that seventeen life-buoys were in a bad condition owing to the fact that there was not sufficient buoyancy in them, and they were condemned. Moreover, two or three per cent. of the life-belts were found defective, but in no case was it shown that the boats employed were in any way defective.

LORD MUSKERRY: Are these figures for the previous four months?

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: Yes, for the last four months of the year 1904. The noble Lord again stated that in his opinion the staff engaged for supervision should be considerably increased. I have nothing to add beyond repeating what I have already said, that this question has been thoroughly considered by the Board of Trade, and in their opinion no case has been made out for increasing the number of officials who are now employed.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD: The particulars stated seem to have been entirely confined to the port of Liverpool. Will the noble Duke tell us whether examinations of a similar kind are going on at Hull, Bristol, and other ports?

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: I gather that the principle applies generally to all the ports in the United Kingdom.

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD: I should like to know whether, as matter of fact, inspections are being made at the other ports.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: I shall be most happy to procure the information for the noble Viscount, but I cannot give it to him offhand, as the Department for which I am replying is not the one with which I am specially connected.

WAR STORES COMMISSION BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Bill read 2^a (according to order).

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, I propose to avail myself of the suspension of Standing Order No. XXXIX., which has already been agreed to, in order to pass the Bill through all its stages this day.

Moved, "That the Bill be committed."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I wish to ask a Question in regard to the Bill which would properly have arisen in Committee, but which I will put now, as the Lord Chancellor proposes to negative the Committee stage. In another place, it was asked last night whether, if the Commission which would receive power under this Bill desired to send a sub-Commission out to South Africa to conduct any part of its inquiry there, that sub-Commission would have the same powers as the Commission possessed here, under the Bill with regard to the enforcement of the attendance of witnesses and other matters of that kind. I understand that the Answer given was that such a sub-Commission would not, under this

Act, have any such powers, but that they would obtain those powers from the local Legislatures. I can readily understand that that may be the case in regard to the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, because from the Constitution of those two colonies it would not be difficult to obtain any powers which the Government might wish. But I want to ask whether the Government think that it would be equally convenient and easy to get those powers from Cape Colony and Natal. I greatly doubt whether the Legislatures of those colonies are likely to be in session at the time; and, if they are not, how are the Government going to get these powers? Any person whom the sub-Commission might wish to examine and who might object to be examined at Pretoria and Bloemfontein would have only to go over the frontier into Cape Colony or Natal to escape from the compulsory powers of the sub-Commission. The Questions which I wish to ask are therefore—first, will any such sub-Commission really be able to obtain such powers at all; and, secondly, if it obtains them in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, do the Government believe that they could get similar powers conferred on it in Cape Colony and Natal?

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, I have not had an opportunity of seeing what the noble Lord refers to as having occurred in another place; but I confess that I should be surprised if the observations which the noble Marquess attributed to some person on behalf of the Government in regard to this point were what he has stated them to be. Looking at it myself, I would say that, if this Bill were passed into law, the Commission would have the same power of sending a Commission abroad to British colonies, if they thought proper, as a Judge in the ordinary course of things would have. I see nothing in the language of the section as it stands to contro that power. The section runs—

"The Commissioners shall have all such powers, rights, and privileges as are vested in the High Court or in any Judge thereof, on the occasion of any action in respect of the following matters: The enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation, or otherwise, and the issue of a Commission or a request to examine witnesses abroad, etc."

I hesitate very much, without having heard what is said on the other side, to deliver an opinion at the moment, but to my mind that language comprehends the powers to which the noble Marquess obviously referred. I see Lord Davey present, however, and I would be very glad to have his opinion on the point.

LORD DAVEY: My Lords, the powers given to the Commission by Section 1 are given by reference to those vested in the High Court, which, of course, means the High Court of Judicature in this country. It is quite true that a Judge of the High Court of Judicature in this country can send a Commission abroad either to one of our own possessions or to a foreign country to examine witnesses; but, unless there is some law in the foreign country or in the colony to which the Commission is sent which enables that Commission to compel either the attendance of witnesses or to enforce the production of documents, the Commission issued by a Judge of the High Court in this country for the purpose of a trial would not have power in Cape Town either to enforce the attendance of witnesses or to enforce the production of documents. I have always understood that a Commission is a very valuable thing for the purpose of obtaining evidence: but it can only obtain evidence from those persons who come forward and give it. I am not aware that a Commission issued by a Judge of the High Court in this country could compel the attendance of witnesses in Cape Town, and that, I think, was the point to which my noble friend's Question was directed.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, I do not wish to express an adverse opinion offhand. I think that in the case of a Commission to a foreign country it may well be that they cannot get the compulsory attendance of witnesses without some part of the jurisprudence of that country being invoked, but dealing with British colonies and British subjects, I confess that my view would be rather that these powers involved the power to compel the attendance of witnesses. I hesitate, however, to express an adverse opinion.

Earl SPENCER: My Lords, I am not going to venture upon a legal discussion, but I would ask the noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack whether he still wishes the Bill to go through all its stages at once. If there is this doubt, cannot the matter be put right in Parliament? And if it can be put right it is hardly desirable that the Bill should be put through all its stages on this occasion.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I quite admit the force of the noble Earl's suggestion, and withdraw my Motion.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

THE MEMORIAL TO LORD SALISBURY.

Earl SPENCER rose "To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he could state to the House what steps had been taken to secure to the House the contemplated memorial to the late Marquess of Salisbury." The noble Earl said: My Lords, I am afraid that the Question in the terms in which it appears on the Paper does not exactly explain what I ought to ask, as it would infer that the memorial is to be in this House. That is not what I intended, because the Motion which I had the honour of seconding was with regard to a public memorial in Westminster Abbey. In putting the Question I would like to add that there has come to my knowledge the fact that there is some little difficulty in regard to a naval memorial to which the naval service attach great importance; and, without wishing in the slightest degree to impede the erection of the memorial to Lord Salisbury, I would like to be assured that this other memorial is not going to be done away with or in any way mutilated, but that proper care will be taken to maintain it.

*__Lord HAWKESBURY__: My Lords, I might perhaps be allowed to explain that the monument in question is a memorial to Captain James Cornewall, and that it was the first monument in Westminster Abbey voted by Parliament to a naval hero. Captain Cornewall lost his life in an action off Toulon in February, 1743 or 1744. Both his legs were shot away, but he fought his ship to the end as long as life remained in his body. Parliament unanimously voted that this monument should be erected to him at the public expense. It has come to my knowledge that the monument is not only to be removed, but mutilated to a certain extent, part of it being taken away to make room for the memorial which Parliament very properly voted for the statesman whose loss we all deplore. I desire to endorse all that has fallen from Lord Spencer in regard to the matter. I hope that it may be possible, while honouring the memory of this great statesman, to preserve the memorial of a gallant sailor.

*__The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Lord Windsor)__: My Lords, I am obliged to the noble Earl for having put this Question, because it is the view of His Majesty's Government that any proposal of this kind should be clearly explained to, and known by, Parliament before it takes shape. Parliament, of course, is concerned to a certain extent with the monuments that have been erected by money given by Parliament; but, as your Lordships know, the question of erecting monuments in Westminster Abbey, and the position in which they are placed, really rests with the Dean. The Abbey is very full of monuments, and it is thought by many persons that there is hardly room for more large monuments. A proposal was made that the monument to the late Lord Salisbury in Westminster Abbey should take the form of a recumbent figure resting on a tomb. The Dean welcomed the proposal, and offered a site in the north arch of the Consistory Court in the south-west corner of the nave. Its position involves an alteration in the position and a curtailment of the Cornewall monument. The Dean proposes to retain the essential features of the monument, and to place it close to the west window of the Consistory Court. That monument is not now in its original condition. So serious was the disfigurement to the architecture of the Abbey, and so great was the inconvenience found to be, that considerable portions of that monument were cut away by Dean Stanley to reduce its height and to give access to the Consistory Court by opening two small passages to the court, in which are now placed the monuments to Wordsworth, the two Arnolds, and Mr. Fawcett. The Tudor screen, which had been torn down in order to insert the Cornewall monument, will now be replaced in a form to harmonise with the tomb. It is thought that this change will be a great gain, for it will allow more light to reach the other monuments. The Dean has taken steps to find out as far as possible whether any objection would be taken by any of the living representatives of the Cornewall family, and I am able to say that two of them, one representing the family in name, have given their consent to the proposed reconstruction on the ground mainly of its obvious benefit to the architectural appearance of the Abbey. On the other hand, one representative has entered a protest against the curtailment of the monument, though she would not absolutely object to the change in the position. It is not for me to express an opinion with reference to a question of this nature, but I believe that the proposal is a very good one, and that, while improving the Consistory Court, it will duly safeguard the memorial of a heroic naval officer. That is the proposal made by the Dean, and I am glad to make it known so that it will not be said afterwards that a monument had been interfered with, and an alteration made, without the knowledge of Parliament. Perhaps I may also add that it has been decided to ask Mr. Bodley to design the base, and Mr. Goscombe John to undertake the sculpture of the monument.

*LORD HAWKESBURY: Can the noble Lord state what parts of the monument are to be removed entirely?

*LORD WINDSOR: A considerable portion of the monument as it now exists consists of a reproduction of rock in marble. I believe that the monument was originally surmounted by some architectural palms. These were partly cut away in Dean Stanley's time, but there is a considerable amount of rock structure in marble still remaining, and it is proposed to curtail a part of this. I cannot actually state in detail what the proposal is, but I suggest that some drawing should be got out in order to enable your Lordships to judge of what is proposed.

EARL SPENCER: This is a matter of great delicacy, but as Parliament voted money for the Salisbury monument it has a right to express an opinion upon it. The suggestion of the noble Lord is satisfactory, and I hope a drawing will be submitted in order to aid in the formation of a correct opinion on the subject.

PASSENGERS TO PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Duke of MARLBOROUGH): My Lords, I beg to move for the Return standing in the name of the noble Marquess the President of the Board of Trade.

Moved, for a Return of the Numbers and Nationalities of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe in each month from June to December, 1905, distinguishing the principal countries in which the passengers contracted to land.—(*The Duke of Marlborough.*)

EARL SPENCER: I wish to draw attention to the wording of the Motion which has just been moved. Is it intended to have a Return for each month from June to December, 1905? We are only now in July, and it seems to me a very unusual thing to order a Return in respect of a period which has not yet arrived. Is there not a mistake?

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH: I presume the Return would naturally be made to the end of the year. The Board of Trade require power to have this Return made during the months that Parliament is not sitting.

EARL SPENCER: I think it is a very unusual thing to ask for a Return in respect of a period not yet reached, and I hardly like to assent to the Motion straight off.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH: Then I will withdraw the Motion till some other day, when I shall be prepared to give the noble Earl an explanation with regard to it.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House adjourned at a quarter past Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday 7th July, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

Mr. **Speaker** informed the House, That he had received the following letter from the Secretary of State, which he read to the House as follows:—

"Foreign Office,
"July 5th, 1905.

"Sir,

"I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a note which has been addressed to me by the Spanish Ambassador at this Court, in which His Excellency informs me that at the sitting of the 16th instant the Senate of the Kingdom of Spain unanimously voted a Resolution giving most hearty thanks to the British nation for the sentiments of sympathy and sincere enthusiasm manifested on the occasion of the visit to this country of His Majesty the King of Spain.

"It will be observed that His Excellency desires that this Message may be communicated to the Houses of Parliament.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your most obedient humble Servant,
"Lansdowne.

"The Right Honourable
"The Speaker of the
"House of Commons."

Translation.] "Spanish Embassy,
"London,
"June 23rd, 1905.

"My Lord,

"I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, at the sitting of the 16th instant, the Senate of the Kingdom unanimously voted a Resolution giving most hearty thanks to the British nation for the sentiments of sympathy and sincere enthusiasm which they showed towards His Majesty the King, my august Sovereign, during his stay in this country; I have pleasure in bringing this to Your Excellency's knowledge and venture to ask you to be good enough to communicate this testimony to the Parliamentary Representatives of the British Nation.

"I avail, etc.,

"(Signed) L. Polo de Bernabe.

"The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G., Etc., etc., etc."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. **Speaker** laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Corbett Estate Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. **Speaker** laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

Donovan's Divorce Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Hastings Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Liverpool, etc.) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Inverness Gas and Water Provisional Order Bill; London Government Scheme (London and Middlesex) Bill; Port Glasgow Improvement Provisional Order Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Gas Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

London Government Scheme (Hackney and Edmonton Unions) Bill (by Order). Read the third time, and passed.

Bangor (County Down) Water and Improvement Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Great Central Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (VOLUNTEERS).

Copy presented, of Circular Letter addressed to General Officers Commanding-in-Chief relative to the Volunteer Force [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (BUILDING REGULATIONS).

Copy presented, of the Building Regulations, being principles to be observed in planning and fitting up new buildings for Public Elementary Schools, together with Rules as to construction and certain requirements as to plans [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).

Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 2) Warrant, 1905, dated 26th June, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND ACT, 1903 (REGULATIONS).

Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Lord-Lieutenant in pursuance of the provisions of Section 23 (8) of The Irish Land Act, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 17th April: *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 230.]

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (GENERAL REPORT).

Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3433 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 450 (Wei-hai-Wei, Annual Report for 1904) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Death of Fitzpatrick in Cootehill Infirmary—Refusal of Local Doctor to Administer Ether.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in reference to the deaths in the Cootehill Infirmary, the Local Government Board asked for a personal explanation from the local doctor for his refusal to administer ether in the case of Fitzpatrick, who died after operation; if not, whether the Board will now ask for a personal answer; whether the medical officer made any report of Fitzpatrick's death to the Local Government Board or to the guardians; if so, what has been alleged as the cause of death; and whether the local police were apprised of the death of Fitzpatrick or of any of the four deaths of the previous January; if not, whether any other opportunity was afforded for making any complaint.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have already informed the hon. Member that the local doctor did not refuse to administer ether, but asked to be excused as he was not in good health. The doctor, however, would have been quite at liberty to refuse his professional services, and the Board would have had no right to ask him for an explanation, and have not done so. The medical officer made no special report of Fitzpatrick's death. The local police were not apprised of the deaths referred to. The relatives of the deceased could have complained to the Board if they had seen fit to do so.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the length of time spent by the inspector of the Local Government Board in his minute investigation of the cause of deaths in the Cootehill Infirmary; whether it was only the medical officer who performed the operations whom he consulted; and whether, considering the number of deaths from operations in the Cootehill Workhouse, the Local Government Board will order an inquiry in the case of every such death.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Board have no record of the actual time occupied by their inspector in making his investigation, but the exhaustive report furnished by him indicates that he interrogated the nurses and workhouse officials. In the absence of any complaints of neglect or incompetency, supported by *prima facie* evidence, the Board do not order inquiries to be held in the case of deaths following operations.

By-laws in Rural Districts Return.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board when the Return, ordered on the 17th April last, in regard to by-laws in rural districts, will be printed and circulated.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) In preparing the Return the Local Government Board have found it necessary to communicate with the several rural district councils, and replies in all cases have not as yet been received. I cannot at present fix a time for the issue of the Return.

Government Printing Contracts.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office affords the opportunity of offering for the requirements of Government printing to printers in Aberdeen; and, if not, whether he will do so in future.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) I understand that facilities such as are desired by the hon. Member have been given in the past, and will continue to be so given.

Army Canteens—Tenant System.

MR. BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the canteens of the Royal naval barracks are now let on what is called the tenant system, and that supplies are no longer required from local tradesmen; whether he is aware that the Winchester authorities, having tried this tenant system, are appealing to the War Office to revert to the supply of the canteens by local tradesmen; and whether he will take steps to secure to local tradesmen an opportunity of participating in the contracts for the Navy canteens.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) Canteens in naval barracks are conducted either under the service or the tenant system, at the discretion of the commanding officer. The details of management and of purchase of stores are matters in which the Admiralty does not interfere.

Cape Colony and Natal's Contributions to the British Navy.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether Sir Gordon Sprigg's offer in 1897, on behalf of Cape Colony, to present to His Majesty's Navy the cost of a first-class battleship, was later commuted in the form of an annual payment representing the interest on such proposed outlay; and, if so, for what amount, and where does it appear in the Estimates; and whether, in addition to the provision of a battleship, the Cape, under The Navy Contribution Act, 1898, contributes a sum of £30,000 a year towards the annual expenditure of the Imperial Government in connection with His Majesty's naval services; and whether Natal continues her gift of 12,000 tons of coal annually for the use of His Majesty's ships, as noted in the Estimates of 1901–2.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The original proposal to present to His Majesty's Navy the cost of a battleship did not meet with unanimous approval in the colony, and was withdrawn. No payment representing the interest on the proposed outlay was made. Under the Cape Navy Contribution Act, 1898, however, the colony contributed £30,000 per annum towards the expenditure in connection with His Majesty's naval service, which sum, by The Navy Contribution Increase Act, 1902, was raised to £50,000. The supply free of charge by Natal of 12,000 tons of coal has been discontinued; a cash contribution of £35,000 per annum now being made under The Navy Contribution Act, 1903. Both contributions are shown at pages 8 and 9 of the Navy Estimates for the current year.

Names on Carts in the Irish Language.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can state under what statute proceedings can be taken against the owner of a cart in Ireland who affixes his name in Irish to the cart.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The statute is 14 and 15 Vic., cap. 92, section 12 (1). The offence is not for having the name in Irish on the cart, but for using the vehicle without having the owner's name and address legibly painted thereon. This has been interpreted by the High Court to mean that the name and address must be in English characters.

Churches (Scotland) Bill—Government Amendments.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): To ask the Lord-Advocate if, before the adjourned debate on the Second Reading of the Churches (Scotland) Bill, he will, by some method, enable hon. Members to see in print the precise alterations in the Bill proposed by Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) I regret I will not be able to announce the Amendments proposed by the Government before the adjourned debate on the Second Reading.

Yield of Direct and Indirect Taxation.

MR. TOULMIN (Bury, Lancashire): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the yield for the year 1904–5 of each direct and indirect tax separately, in a form similar to his reply of 27th April, 1904,† but distinguishing the amounts devoted in each case to

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxxiii., 1289.

Imperial purposes and Local Taxation Account.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Net Receipts in 1904–5 from Direct and Indirect Taxes.
(Excluding the Proceeds of the Coal Duty.)

Indirect Taxes.			Direct Taxes.		
	For Imperial purposes.	For Local Taxation Accounts.		For Imperial purposes.	For Local Taxation Accounts.
	£	£		£	£
Customs—			Excise—		
Coffee, etc.	490,000	—	Licences, etc.	253,000	4,074,000
Dried fruits	442,000	—	Railway Duty	355,000	—
Spirits	3,822,000	174,000	Estate Duty	13,010,000	4,248,000
Sugar	6,106,000	—	Stamps	7,804,000	—
Tea	8,272,000	—	Land Tax	768,000	—
Tobacco	13,185,000	—	Inhabited House Duty	2,014,000	—
Wine	1,185,000	—	Income-Tax	31,264,000	—
Other Customs	66,000	1,000			
Excise—					
Beer	12,679,000	423,000			
Spirits	17,307,000	829,000			
Glucose, etc	104,000	—			
	63,658,000	1,427,000		55,468,000	8,322,000
	£65,085,000			£63,790,000	

Results of Work of Seistan Commission.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India, the work of the Seistan Commission having terminated on the return to Quetta a month ago of the Chief Commissioner, Colonel MacMahon, with his surveyors and escorts, can a communication be made, in either House, before closing the session, describing the objects of this Mission and its results so far obtained, together with a statement of sums expended up to date, with estimate of total and prospective annual cost of arrangements made pursuant to the Mission's explorations in those desert regions, through which a railway has been pushed beyond Nushki; and also list of casualties from drought and disease during making of the railway and since despatch of the Mission two years ago.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The object of the Mission to Seistan was the settlement, in accordance with the 6th Article of the Treaty with Persia of 1857, of disputes which had arisen between the Persians and Afghans as to their respective rights to the waters of the Helmund River. Colonel MacMahon's award has been delivered to the two Governments concerned, but it would be undesirable to make any detailed statement on the subject till the award has been formally accepted by the two Governments concerned. The question of the Perso-Baluch boundary, to which my predecessor referred in his reply to the hon. Member on the 3rd March, 1903,† has been settled with the Persian Government without demarcation. Up to the end of 1904–5 the expenditure on the Mission had amounted to about twenty-six lakhs, and about seven lakhs (Rs. 6,88,000) were provided in the Budget of the current year for the same purpose. I may add that the extension of the railway from Quetta to Nushki, beyond which place no extension is either under construction or in contemplation, had no connection with the objects of the Mission. The estimated cost of the line is about seventy lakhs. I have no information as to the number of deaths from drought or disease, either amongst those connected with the Mission or amongst the labourers employed upon the railway.

Promotion of Irish National School Teachers.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the number of teachers, exclusive of infant school teachers, in the group of districts under Mr. Murphy, Armagh, as senior inspector; what number of these teachers has he recommended for promotion to second of first, and to first of first grade respectively for the past three years; how many teachers in the same group of districts were recommended by their inspector for admission to examination for these grades preceding the introdution of the new system, on account of their having conducted the schools in a satisfactory or highly efficient manner.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the number of national teachers in the district under Mr. O'Connell, Belfast, excluding teachers of infant schools; how many has he recommended for promotion to second of first and first of first grade respectively during the past three years; and how many have been promoted; and if he will advise the National Board to see that more uniformity is established between the proportion of teachers recommended for promotion by inspectors of the different districts and also between recommendations under the new system and the old.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) It does not appear to the Commissioners that any useful public purpose would be served by giving this information, and they are unable, therefore, to give it. If, however, my hon. friend will communicate to me the particulars of any specific case I shall be glad to make further inquiry.

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO CROPS BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee) considered.

MR. MOUNT (Berkshire, Newbury), in moving a new clause in substitution for Clause 2 in the Bill, said that in Committee it was urged that as certain stringent liabilities were being imposed upon railway companies it was only fair that the companies should be empowered to take precautions to protect themselves against the risk of fire arising from sparks emitted from their engines. The promoters were willing to accede to that request provided the precautions taken did not unduly trench on the rights of others. Under the Bill a railway company on payment of compensation had a right to enter a plantation or wood and adopt such precautions as they thought fit to prevent injury by fire to such plantation, and it was further set out that in the exercise of that power the company might cut down trees or shrubs without obtaining the consent of the owners. That was a stringent provision, and there were many ways in which the exercise of the right might cause serious damage. In many places plantations had been planted for the purpose of shutting out the view of a railway line, and the cutting down of trees without the consent of the owner might cause damage which the payment of money would not compensate.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxviii. 1232.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES, Huntingdonshire, Ramsey) intimated his willingness to accept the Amendment.

MR. MOUNT said in that case he need not further labour the point, but simply move.

A clause. (Powers for the extinction and prevention of fire).

"(1) A railway company may enter on any land and do all things reasonably necessary for the purpose of extinguishing, or arresting the spread of, any fire caused by sparks or cinders emitted from any locomotive engine.

"(2) A railway company may, for the purpose of preventing or diminishing the risk of fire in a plantation, wood, or orchard through sparks or cinders emitted from any locomotive engine, enter upon any part of the plantation, wood, or orchard, or on any land adjoining thereto, and cut down and clear away any undergrowth, and take any other precautions reasonably necessary for the purpose; but they shall not, without the consent of the owner of the plantation, wood, or orchard, cut down or injure any trees, bushes, or shrubs.

"(3) A railway company exercising powers under this section shall pay full compensation to any person injuriously affected by the exercise of those powers, including compensation in respect of loss of amenity, and any compensation so payable shall, in case of difference, be determined in England and Ireland by two justices in manner provided by Section 24 of The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, and in Scotland by the sheriff in manner provided by Section 22 of The Lands Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1845."—(*Mr. Mount.*)

Brought up, and read the first and second time.

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbrightshire), in moving to insert "or moorland" in line 1, said he had known cases in which eighty or 100 acres of grass had been destroyed by fire before the persons told off to put down such outbreaks could appear on the scene. It was a question of the destruction not only of heather and grass, but also of fences. Moreover, when fire got into peat mosses it often remained there for weeks, and could only be extinguished by heavy rains. He begged to move.

*MR. SPEAKER said he did not know what the legal aspect of the matter might be, but he would have thought that "land" included "moorland." As, however, there might be a legal distinction, he would accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the clause—

"In line 1, after the word 'land' to insert the word 'or moorland.'"—(*Sir Mark Stewart.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W. R., Keighley) thought that the Amendment was altogether unnecessary. There might be different kinds of land to which the technical term of "moorland" would not apply, with the result that the Amendment would tend to limit the operation of the clause.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) thought that to name any particular kind of land would limit rather than extend the operation of the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster) moved to amend the new clause so as to require the railway company to obtain the consent of the owner before entering any plantation, wood, or orchard for the purpose of taking precautions against the risk of fire. His objections had been largely met by the new clause, but he desired that the consent of the owner should be necessary before the company entered on the land at all. Under the clause there was no limitation as to the land they might enter, nor was there any definition of "undergrowth" which they might cut down without consent, whereas before they cut down bushes the consent of the owner was necessary. It was difficult sometimes to tell the difference between bushes and undergrowth, and great hardship might be inflicted unless the words he proposed were inserted. Without some such proviso the remedy would really be worse than the disease. If the Amendment were agreed to he would propose to leave out all words after "purpose," as he thought the clause would then cover everthing that was required. He did not wish to prevent the passage of the Bill, as he regarded it as a useful measure, but he thought the amenities of land adjoining the plantations should be protected.

SIR JOHN DORINGTON (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the clause—

"In line 7, after the word 'engine' to insert the words 'after having obtained the consent of the owner of the plantation, wood, or orchard.'"—(*Sir James Rankin.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) thought that if the remedy were worse than the disease the necessary antidote would be that compensation should not be payable unless reasonable precautions against fire had been taken. If an owner had bramble bushes near a railway he was almost inviting a fire. He did not think any hindrances ought to be put in the way of the companies taking the necessary precautions. In fact, he rather welcomed the proposal, because the cost of the precautions, instead of falling on the owner as hitherto, would in future have to be borne by the companies. He did not think there would be any difficulty in arranging the necessary precautions with due regard to the amenities of property, and he considered the clause quite reasonable as it stood.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) pointed out that the insertion of the words would make the sub-section quite unnecessary. An Act of Parliament was unnecessary to enable anyone to enter upon land with the consent of the owner. It had already been provided that if a fire broke out the company might enter upon land for the purpose of extinguishing it, and it could not be said that that was an unreasonable provision. What was desired was a further power for the company to enter upon land and take any reasonable precautions to prevent the outbreak of fire. The suggestion of the hon. Member for the Leith Burghs had come rather late in the day, and in view of the present position of the Bill the consideration of that suggestion could not with advantage be now entered upon. He appealed to his hon. friend not to press the Amendment.

COLONEL PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) said that he had had some experience in this matter and he should be delighted if the railway companies had that power.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not the point. The question the hon. and gallant Member is dealing with has been disposed of in the new sub-section. This Bill deals only with steps to be taken to prevent fires breaking out.

MR. MOUNT hoped the hon. Baronet would not press his Amendment.

SIR JAMES RANKIN said that as his Amendment did not find favour with the Committee, and as he was anxious that the Bill should pass, he begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington) moved an Amendment to insert after the word "enter" the words "thereon within twenty yards of the railway fence."

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) hoped the promoters would accept this Amendment. Nearly all the alterations in Grand Committee seemed to be in favour of the railway companies, and it was a pity that when a private Bill was introduced, in order to get it through all kinds of interests should be placated and their Amendments agreed to simply in order to pass the Bill. It was very serious to give railway companies power to enter into covers and go any distance into them. He thought the House would be wise in accepting this Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the clause—

"In line 7, to leave out from the word 'enter' to the word 'and,' in line 8, and insert the words 'thereon within twenty yards of the railway fence.'"—(*Sir Joseph Leese.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. MOUNT said that it had been shown that twenty yards was not satisfactory in every case. The railway companies were only being allowed to take such precautions as were absolutely necessary, and he trusted the hon. Member would not imperil the progress of the Bill by his present proposal.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON said he had known cases where every precaution had been taken for forty or fifty yards, and even then cinders had frequently dropped over that distance.

Mr. LYELL (Dorsetshire, E.) said he should support his hon. friend in the lobby if he pressed his Amendment to a division. It had always been intended that one of the principal effects of this Bill should be to compel railway companies to adopt such inventions as were available for the prevention of these sparks flying about. At the present time there was no inducement for railway companies to adopt these inventions. To give these companies leave to go any distance into plantations or other land to cut down bushes which they might consider were liable to catch fire, would be putting into their hands a power which would be extremely liable to abuse.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said he was not one of those who regarded railway companies as people who were always ready to meet them very fairly, but in this particular instance he thought they had met them fairly. The principal complaint of the hon. Member for Barnstaple was that cover owners and shooting tenants would be affected. He wished to point out that this Bill was not brought in in the interests of cover owners or shooting tenants, but its object was to ensure that the crops of farmers should not be damaged and that if they were damaged by sparks from engines the farmers should receive compensation. The farmers were quite satisfied that their case had been fairly met by the railway companies.

*Mr. EDMUND FABER (Hampshire, Andover) assured the House that railway companies were really desirous of finding something that would prevent sparks, but they could not do so without reducing the power to get up steam.

*Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said this question had been thoroughly threshed out in Committee. The railway companies had no desire to damage plantations, for which damage they would have to pay. The object of the clause was to enable the companies to clear the ground ahead of a fire and thus arrest its progress; and to take precautions against the recurrence of a fire. The course of a fire might be more than twenty yards from the railway and if a limit was put in it would render the clause useless.

Sir JOSEPH LEESE asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause added to the Bill.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 5, after the word 'when' to insert the words 'after this Act comes into operation.'"

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 16, to leave out the word 'Act' and insert the word 'section.'"—(*Mr. Mount*).

Amendments agreed to.

Mr. SOARES moved an Amendment to Clause 1 to enable action for damages to be brought under it up to £500 instead of merely £100. He said all the alterations in the Bill seemed to have been made in favour of the railway companies. However, he did not see why they should be protected. The Bill was one to protect farmers, and why should the farmers' claim for damages under the Bill be limited to £100. Much more serious damage might be done to standing crops. He, himself, would like to see no restriction at all. He did not see why railway companies who had committed damage should not pay the whole amount; but, if some limitations were desired, he was willing that it should be £500. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out the word 'one,' and insert the word 'five'—(*Mr. Soares*)—instead therof."

Question proposed, "That the word 'one' stand part of the Bill."

MR. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he agreed with his hon. friend that the amount to which damages were to be limited was far too low. It seemed to him that if a railway company did damage at all it should be responsible for a higher amount. The higher the amount the companies had to pay the surer they would be to find out an early remedy for sparks. It was only a question, after all, for experiment, and the resources of science were not exhausted.

MR. GEORGE FABER (York) said he did not think it was wise to penalise railway companies too much. When powers were originally given to railway companies it was very well known that the railways would be run by steam, and that the locomotives would emit sparks. In view of the difficulties which the companies had found in getting a remedy for sparks, he held that it would not be right to penalise them in the way proposed.

MR. MOUNT expressed the hope that the hon. Gentleman would not press the Amendment. This matter was threshed out by the Committee upstairs, and he thought the arrangement come to was a fairly reasonable one. He would point out that, apart from the protection given under this Bill, the farmer would still have the remedy which he had at present at common law. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the damage done to agricultural produce would be met by the £100 limit.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER agreed with his hon. friend that the railway companies had made rather a good bargain in regard to the limit of £100. But there was no mode of getting the Bill through this session if they were going to fight the railway companies on all points. The proposal in the Bill was a compromise, and, as had been pointed out, the limit stipulated would cover most of the cases of damages. In cases where a greater amount of damage was done the loser would not be prevented from pursuing the railway company under common law. In the interest of agriculturists they would do well to take the Bill as it stood, rather than wreck it, and possibly be left in the position of not getting another for years.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the limitation of £100 was not in itself unreasonable. The Bill left intact the remedy that at present existed at common law, but the person seeking redress in that way had to prove negligence. This Bill was specially introduced to provide another form of remedy. It was particularly hard on a person whose crops had been destroyed that he had to adduce evidence, it might be by experts, for the purpose of establishing negligence. That was peculiarly hard in the case of the smaller tenants. The Bill, as passed by the Grand Committee and amended by the House, relieved the small farmer from that hardship and enabled him to get redress from the railway company. He could not help feeling that the limit introduced in Grand Committee was in itself reasonable and in consonance with the purpose of the Bill. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would not think it necessary to divide the House on the Amendment.

MR. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) said he felt a great interest in some protection being given to agriculturists; but, knowing the difficulty they had in Grand Committee to get the Bill through, he ventured to appeal to Members opposite to withdraw the Amendment. He considered it would be a great pity to risk the loss of the Bill because they did not get all they wanted. Agriculturists wished no injustice to be done to the railway companies; indeed, quite the reverse. The Bill was a matter of justice, and he hoped they would not risk it by the Amendment.

Mr. LUKE WHITE (Yorkshire, E.R., Buckrose) said they were told by the Attorney-General that agriculturists might suffer more than £100 damages by sparks, but they would still be entitled to have recourse to the common law. It was, however, the very difficulties under the common law which had led to the introduction of the Bill. He felt quite sure that the limit of £100 was far too low. It might be in the interest of those in charge of the Bill that they should suggest some larger sum than £100, and, if they did so, there would be some general agreement.

*Mr. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury) said that on this occasion he agreed with hon. Gentlemen opposite. At the present time no man could succeed in an action against a railway company for damages caused by fire sparks unless he could bring it home that there was negligence in the management or construction of the engines, and great expense had to be incurred to prove that the engine was not so constructed as to prevent sparking. Coal was now so expensive that railway companies used more bad coal in their engines, and high speed required such a large amount of coal that he did not think there was any doubt in the mind of anybody in agricultural districts that bad coal was in no small part the cause of these fires. That being the state of the law, a one-clause Bill was brought in to compel companies to pay damages whether the loss, however great, was caused by negligence or not, and there was no serious opposition to it; however, since the Second Reading, they were asked to pass a clause limiting the amount of damages which the companies were to be liable to pay to £100. He should vote for the Amendment. The argument that they would get no Bill at all unless the proposals in that Bill were agreed to had no weight with him.

Mr. BRIGG suggested that a compromise might be made by making the limit £200. He thought that would meet all the circumstances of the case.

Mr. SOARES agreed to the suggestion.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) pointed out that the Bill had still to go through the Third Reading stage. This was the last day available for the consideration of the Bill on Report, and he thought they should not discuss Amendments at great length. It would be perfectly impossible to pass the Bill unless the Government gave facilities.

Question put and agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, to leave out Clause 2."

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out the words 'No action under this Act shall be,' and insert the words 'This Act shall not apply in the case of any action for damage by fire.'"—(*Mr. Mount.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Sir MARK STEWART moved an Amendment on Clause 3 for the purpose of extending from seven to fourteen days the period during which notice might be given to a railway company of a claim for damages. He could not think that the railway companies would really object to a fortnight's notice. In some cases farmers lived a long way from the farms and were dependent on shepherds and others for information.

Sir JOSEPH LEESE seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'fourteen'"—(*Sir Mark Stewart*),—instead thereof.

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Bill."

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said this Bill was placing an onerous charge on the railway companies. The whole question whether there was an obligation resting on a railway company to pay would depend on the evidence as to whether the damage had been caused by a spark from an engine. The persons whose crops were damaged could easily give notice within seven days, and it would be easier in that case for the railway companies to trace whether or not they were liable. Fires of this kind not infrequently arose through fires lighted by tinkers, and unless railway companies had notice within a short period they would not be able to satisfy themselves whether they were liable.

MR. SOARES said the amount of the claim was limited to £100, and this was not a very onerous burden on the wealthy railway companies of the country. All the new terms of the Bill seemed to be on the side of the railway companies. He agreed that this was a very serious and important Amendment, because it had to be remembered that the people who would suffer were farmers, who were not accustomed to sending in claims for damages. They had to send in notice of their claim and also particulars of the damage within seven days, which was a very short period, seeing that they would have to assess the damage, probably having to engage a valuer to do it. He considered fuller time should be allowed.

MR. MOUNT expressed the hope that the hon. Member would not press the Amendment. The matter was discussed by the Grand Committee, and it was agreed that seven days should be the time.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said that the Amendment was very important; and he thought that the Government should make some concession in the matter.

COLONEL PILKINTON said that it seemed to him the railway companies ought to concede something here. It seemed to him quite a monstrous suggestion on the part of the railway companies that a claim for damages should be sent in in writing within seven days, if the House would excuse him putting it in such strong language. He should have thought twenty-eight days would have been much more appropriate. It meant, if seven days notice was left in, that farmers might be too late. Surely the railway companies were not going to press that. Surely they did not want to evade just claims. Just claims might be too late, for farmers might not be able to get their full claims in writing made out within seven days. He was not going to suggest twenty-eight days, but he did think that for the sake of getting the Bill these just suggestions and claims ought to be met. This seemed to him to be most fair, and he trusted that the House would insist on fourteen days notice.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) said it was only by compromise that the Bill could be got through. The promoters were prepared to accept the Amendment if they were not asked for any more.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE said he should be quite prepared to accept the proposal that seven days should be given for notice, and fourteen days for the preparation of the claim.

MR. LYELL said that no argument had been adduced in favour of the retention of the words "seven days," except that damage might be caused by tinkers, whom it would be difficult to trace. He protested against the hon. Member for South-West Manchester regarding this as a great concession, and that no further concession should be given.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY suggested that fourteen days should be given for furnishing the particulars of the damage.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY moved to insert in line 10, after "damage," the words "and within fourteen days as regards particulars of the damage."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'damage' to insert the words 'and within fourteen days as regards particulars of the damage.'"—(*The Attorney-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

SIR MARK STEWART moved an Amendment to insert in line 15, after "land," the words "or moorland." It might be all right in a stone wall country; but in the Highlands the heather would burn like tinder.

SIR HUGH SHAW-STEWART (Renfrew, E.) seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 15, after the word 'land,' to insert the words 'or moorland.'"—(*Sir Mark Stewart.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or moorland' be there inserted."

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) said that what the Amendment really aimed at was the protection of grouse. The damage in that case might be very excessive; and he should certainly vote against the Amendment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that under the terms of the Bill "moorland" was excluded.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW said that his hon. friend who seconded the Amendment was not only politically, but personally, a neighbour; and he was quite sure his hon. friend would agree that there were many moors which ought to be more frequently burned. It would be a most difficult thing to trace the origin of a fire, and in the case of moorland it would be difficult to assess the damage that had been done, because fires on the moorlands usually took place in those parts which were most neglected. He hoped his hon. friend would withdraw the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 24, to leave out the words 'Compensation for Damage to Crops,' and insert the words 'Railway Fires.'"—(*Mr. Mount.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 24, at end to insert the words 'This Act shall apply to agricultural land under the management of the Commissioners of Woods and to agricultural crops thereon.'"—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish.*)

Motion made, and Question, "That the Bill be now read the third time," put, and agreed to.

(King's consent signified), Bill read the third time, and passed.

COAL MINES (WEIGHING OF MINERALS) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 17, after the words 'deputy check-weigher,' to insert the words 'as the case may be.'"

"In page 2, line 10, after the words 'check-weigher,' to insert the words, 'or deputy-check-weigher.'"

"In page 2, line 14, to leave out the word 'so.'"

"In page 2, line 14, after the word 'paid,' to insert the words 'as aforesaid.'"

"In page 2, line 16, at the beginning, to insert the words 'For the purposes of the principal Act and of this Act.'"

"In page 2, line 19, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'be deemed to.'"

"In page 2, line 28, after the word 'gotten,' to insert the words 'be deemed to.'"

"In page 2, line 29, after the word 'those,' to insert the words 'who are.'"

"In page 2, line 29, to leave out the words 'in respect of,' and insert the word 'from.'"

"In page 3, line 10, after the word 'and,' to insert the words 'The Coal Mines Regulation Act (1887) Amendment Act, 1903, and.'"—(*Mr. Compton Rickett.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed "That the Bill be now read a third time."

*MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough) said he should like to acknowledge the treatment the Bill had met with in the Committee from the coal-owners, who had behaved most fairly. Under all the circumstances he thought it was right also to mention that they were indebted very much to the Under-Secretary to the Home Office for medition and assistance.

COLONEL PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) said his hon. friend opposite had recognised the conciliatory spirit in which the coal-mine owners had received this Bill and had treated it in all its stages. They had had a great many conferences with the miners' representatives and with the hon. Member himself, and after all those conferences they withdrew the Amendments and allowed the Bill to go through all its stages without any friction or opposition. Now, what they pressed for was to attach to this Bill a clause which was really of the same nature as the check-weighing clause. He pressed for a clause to be put in with regard to the weighing of foreign matter. The hon. Gentleman and his friends pointed out to them that, although in some respects they would be ready to discuss such a thing as that, and although they admitted that it ought to be discussed, they considered that this was not the time and that it should be left for the future and for a larger Bill. He and his friends wished to do this now and they thought it was a good opportunity, because the Bill was not a long one and they thought the result was obtainable, but, when it was pointed out to them the great difficulties the miners had to contend with, they saw at once that there was great force in the position put to them, and they acquiesced and helped the miners with the passage of the Bill. Now what did the hon. Gentleman himself say, speaking at the Grand Committee. He said—

"Therefore, if this were a perfectly good case, still I would submit to the Committee that it is not the time, nor is this Bill the opportunity for pressing it. To put it into this Bill would most certainly wreck the Bill. This is a matter for discussion, and I am glad to say that the representatives of the men in meeting the coal-owners have suggested that this question should come up at the Conciliation Board's meeting at once, and that it should be thoroughly threshed out, and that sooner or later it should form the subject of legislation in conjunction with the provisions of the Act of 1887, which will be looked at from more points than one."

The Under-Secretary for the Home Office also gave great attention to the Bill, and he thought if the hon. Gentleman said anything now he would probably say he would be glad to see something done on the lines he had stated. These were his words in the Grand Committee—

"Now, as regards this particular Amendment which deals with this difficulty, it has been one that has been long felt. It is overcome now, and I believe it is overcome by illegal methods. Both parties, men and employers, are more or less guilty, in these arrangements come to, of technical illegalities. Under those circumstances I must have great sympathy with any measure to make legal that which is not legal, but which is generally agreed upon by both employers and workmen. Now this point has been considered by the Home Department on more than one occasion. Mr. Asquith and Lord Ridley endeavoured to meet it. Neither of them succeeded in doing so."

Then his hon. friend in the further arguments of his speech went on to say—

"I think it is a very legitimate and proper one, but I have heard what the hon. Member who is in charge of the Bill has said. He says that there has been a meeting between those who promote the Bill on the one side, and those who are not promoting it on the other side, and that they have met to consider this question with every desire to come to a solution; and he pledges himself, on behalf of the workers, not to let the subject die, not to say anything in the future in a hostile way, but to take it into their early and immediate consideration; and, if a Bill is introduced to deal with this question, that it will meet with no factious opposition from the employed. Under those circumstances, we may consider this is a genuine, and a reliable, and a *bona fide* offer of the working men, and if they go away from that they will lose a great deal of weight. I hope and believe that that is their intention, and I say to hon. Members not to press even a good thing if it is going to have a disastrous effect upon a humble and useful measure. The fate of this Bill entirely depends upon the good will of the House of Commons. If there is one side or the other hostile we know that its doom is sealed. It has many good, useful, and modest provisions, and I commend it to the Committee. Under those circumstances I would suggest, although I have no right to do so, to my hon. friends who have been most reasonable, to meet the thing in this respect—that they should not press the clause, which is beset with so many difficulties at the present time."

The result of all those appeals from the Home Office and from the hon. Members opposite was that they certainly fell in with their view. They felt it was only right to do so. They felt most thoroughly that the Bill as it at present stood did not go very far, but as far as it went it was a good, useful and carefully-drawn Bill. Therefore, he had much pleasure on the Grand Committee in acquiescing in the desire expressed by the promoters of the Bill, and he was glad to-day to wish the Bill every success, and that it should pass its Third Reading.

*Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he had listened with some surprise to the lengthy quotations read by the hon. Member opposite, and he wondered why they had been read. He thought there must be some ulterior motive in his reading them. Why did the hon. Member read those statements unless it was to put on record that the miners' representatives would, in cases of deductions for foreign matter, go in the direction of the proposals of the coalowners, upon which the men had strong opinions? It might be that in the future some large Bill would be brought in, as an improvement of the Mines Regulation Act, and that these statements read with such emphasis and clearness would then be brought before them as some pledge to force upon the miners' representatives some such clause. Speaking for himself, he knew of no inference or implied pledge given by the miner's representatives that they would go in any direction so far as deductions for foreign material were concerned, and he rose to safeguard himself from any such inference being drawn. He joined in thanking the coalowners for the conciliatory manner in which they had met the Bill, but if it had not been for the stubbornness of some coalowners it would never have been necessary at all. If they (the employers) had put into operation what they (the workmen) considered the legitimate powers given to them and the provisions provided for them under the principal Act of 1887, there would never have been any need to introduce this Bill or for any arrangement to be made, because, with the exception of one or two cases, in the whole of the United Kingdom the provisions of the principal Bill were carried out. He was aware of no case in Durham where the check-weighing system was in force where there was not a cabin and proper provisions for weighing.

Colonel PILKINGTON said that this was a serious matter. The deliberations upstairs did not appear on record anywhere to-day. He had only read out what his hon. friend and the Under-Secretary of State had said. If the Bill had been before the Committee of the Whole House everything said would of course have been on record. He would only say to his hon. friend that the coal proprietors and the miners' representatives had really co-operated in this matter, and he trusted on some future occasion the miners' representatives would co-operate with the coal-owners.

Sir WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) expressed his satisfaction that this Bill had reached its Third Reading. He had always desired to treat questions of this kind in a conciliatory spirit, and the sooner that state of things could be brought about which would insure that the interests of both sides would be safeguarded and that each side would be able to carry on their trade in a peaceful way the better. The check-weighing system was at the root of the administrative working of the mines so far as economy was concerned. The hon. Gentleman opposite had truly stated that the irregularities which this Bill was intended to meet in their opinion only applied to isolated cases. It had certainly been a surprise to him that it was necessary to insert many things which he had found in the Bill. He did not think that any colliery owner would take any credit for having acted in a conciliatory spirit. That was the desire of all who were engaged in colliery affairs. It was their desire to do everything they could to do away with anything that caused friction and inconvenience. He thought it was wiser not to attempt to widen the Bill in any way.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.) referring to what had transpired in Committee said it was at the time admitted that the question was one deserving of consideration, but the time was not propitious for it. He believed meetings of hon. Members interested on both sides had been held and that it had been agreed on behalf of the coalowners that such a contentious clause ought not to be introduced, while hon. Members who had introduced the Bill had stated on behalf of the men that if it were brought up on a subsequent occasion it should not be dealt with in a contentious or hostile spirit.

***MR. COMPTON RICKETT**: I do not wish to interrupt, but I said that the matter would be discussed in the first instance by the miners at the Conciliation Board. The subject would be treated in a fair and impartial manner.

***MR. COCHRANE** hoped that under the circumstances the House could agree to the Third Reading of the Bill.

Bill read the third time and passed.

DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee) considered.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.), on behalf of the hon. Member for West Donegal, moved the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 31, after the word 'or,' to insert the word 'knowingly.'"—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

***COLONEL NOLAN** (Galway, N.) objected. He had, he said, intended to move an Amendment to Clause 11, which he understood had been put in solely at the instance of publicans. It would unfairly penalise sober people. It provided that a sober person who went into a public-house and offered a glass of beer to another man might be subject to fine and imprisonment. The Bill was no doubt aimed at drunken persons, but surely, in view of the difficulty of telling when a man was drunk, the clause should be more definite. He suggested it required the addition of the word "obviously" before the words "drunken person." The difficulty was to decide when a man was drunk. He had had to do that thousands of times, but different people held different views. One thought a man excited by a single glass of beer was drunk: another held that he must be totally incapable before he could be so described. No man would be safe under the Bill if he went into a public-house and offered to stand a drink. He was not in favour of the habit of standing drinks all round: but he had stood drinks in his time—no not at an Election—because that was dangerous and petitions might be in the air—but he did think the clause ought to have been more carefully constructed, and under the circumstances he should feel it his duty to vote against the Bill unless Clause 11 was amended.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said the clause had been inserted at the request of the Dublin Publicans' Society for the protection of publicans, who complained that, while they were liable to punishment for serving a drunken man, it often occurred that the drink was called for by a perfectly sober man and given to a drunken person, and it was not fair that they should be penalised in that case. He hoped the Bill would under the circumstances be read a third time.

***SIR ALBERT ROLLIT** (Islington' S.) agreed that the wording of the clause was too drastic. In reply to the question raised by a previous speaker, there was no such provision in the English licensing law. While he was not prepared to oppose the Third Reading he did feel sorry that the hon. Member had lost his opportunity of moving his very proper Amendment.

COLONEL NOLAN asked if he could move to re-commit the Bill in respect of Clause 11.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Such a Motion would be in order but the hon. and gallant Member could not make it as he has exhausted his right of speech.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. James Campbell, Dublin University) undertook to introduce the word "knowingly" in another place, so as to make it punishable for a man to knowingly give drink to a drunken person."

Colonel NOLAN: I should prefer the words to a "manifestly drunken person."

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL feared that that would lead to considerable difficulties of interpretation.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.) urged the hon. and gallant Member to accept the offer of the Government. He quite sympathised with him, and concurred that anything which was the outcome of an agreement between the trade and the temperance party should have been viewed with special suspicion by the Government.

Mr. NOLAN (Louth, S.) said it had been stated in the debate that the publicans of Ireland had been consulted with regard to the provisions of this Bill, and that they were in favour of it. He accepted that statement in good faith, and he, for one, should not attempt to challenge either the honesty or the intelligence of the publicans of Ireland. He knew that many of the publicans of Ireland were highly respectable and intelligent men and good citizens, but, with all due respect both to the publicans of Ireland, who appeared to have been consulted, and all the other people who had been and were still connected with the pressing forward of this measure, he ventured to say that this Bill was uncalled for, ill-considered, mischievous in its provisions, and offensive to every Irishman who had any regard for the fair fame of his country. The very title "Drunkenness (Ireland) Bill" was offensive. If there was one man in Ireland who indulged to excess in strong drink he should say that there was too much drunkenness in Ireland. Unfortunately there was more than one person who indulged in strong drink in Ireland, but he utterly denied that the number who indulged to excess in Ireland was any greater than in England, Scotland, or Wales. Therefore, he resented any special measure of this kind being brought forward to deal with drunkenness in Ireland which was not applicable to Great Britain as well. He was proud to say that there were at the present time healthy influences at work which were bringing about a very great change in the habits of the people of Ireland in regard to indulging in strong drink. Although those influences might not be of such a sweeping character, yet he believed that the steady growth of the temperance movement in Ireland, based upon moderation and religious suasion, would have a far more beneficial effect than any coercive measures of this character which might be passed by this House. He considered this Act, if passed, would be an addition to the long list of coercive Acts which had been applied to Ireland. This measure in its former stages appeared to have been smuggled through the House. It was not debated on the Second Reading, and it had been got through after midnight in a hole-and-corner way without the knowledge of the majority of the Members of the Irish Party in the House.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: The Second Reading was passed on the Motion of the hon. Member for Donegal on a Friday afternoon.

Mr. NOLAN said it got through Committee in the same way. Clause 13 would compel a husband to give evidence against his wife, and the wife to give evidence against her husband. To his mind such a proposal was an outrage upon family life and the social relations which existed in Ireland. So far as families in Ireland were concerned, the proposals in this Bill were an outrage on common sense. He moved, as an Amendment, "That the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House in respect of Amendments to Clauses 11 and 13."

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Glasgow, St. Rollox) seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'be,' to the end of the Question, and add the words 're-committed to a Committee of the whole House in respect of Clauses 11 and 13.'"—(*Mr. Nolan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. MOONEY (Dublin County, S.) supported the Amendment. He said Clause 13 would compel a wife to give evidence against her husband, and a husband to give evidence against his wife. He did not believe that there was a provision of that kind in any English Act of a similar character. He thought his hon. friend was quite justified in moving the recommittal of this Bill.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 22. (Division List No. 251.)

AYES.

Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baker, Joseph Allen
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bowles, Lt-Col HF (Middlesex)
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, NE (York, NR, Whitby)
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt Hn JA (Glasgow)
Campbell, J H M (Dublin Univ.
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Fellowes, Rt. Hn Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn JE (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higham, John Sharp
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moss, Samuel
Mount, William Arthur
Mobray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Reddy, M.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R Threshie (Dumfries
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew
Sheehy, David
Slack, John Bamford
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir CEH (Sheffield)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Welby, Lt. Col. ACE. (Taunton)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Edward Mitchell.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cullinan, J.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J (Manc'r.

Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Flower, Sir Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Greene, Henry D (Shrewsbury
Groves, James Grimble
Lundon, W.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway,N
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.
Pease, Herb Pike (Darlington)
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Stanley, Edward Jas (Somerset
Tuff, Charles
Wilson, John (Glasgow)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Mooney and Mr. Nolan.

Main Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 147; Noes, 18. (Division List No. 252.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, NE(York,NR,Whitby
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt Hn JA (Glasgow)
Campbell, J.HM(Dublin Univ.
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Fellowes, RtHnAilwynEdward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt.HnSir J.(Manc'r
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Sir Ernest
Gladstone, Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharp
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutchinson, Dr. CharlesFredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kilbride, Denis
Kimber, Sir Henry
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsm'th)
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moss, Samuel
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Reddy, M.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie(Dumfries
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Slack, John Bamford
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, DavidAlfred (Merthyr
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col.Sir CEH(Sheffield
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds,S
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B.Stuart

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Edward Mitchell.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allsopp, Hon. George
Austin, Sir John
Baker, Joseph Allen
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants,W.
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury

Groves, James Grimble
Lundon, W.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
Purvis, Robert

TELLERS FOR THE NOES— Colonel Nolan and Mr. Mooney.

Bill read the third time and passed.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

MR. SLACK (Hertforshire, St. Albans) moved, on Clause 2 (Appointment of public trustee to be trustee, executor, etc.), the following additional sub-section:—" Notice of any proposed appointment of the public trustee either as a new or additional trustee shall where practicable be given to all persons beneficially interested who are resident in the United Kingdom and whose addresses are known to the persons proposing to make the appointment or applying to the Court for that purpose or if such beneficiaries are infants to their guardians." He said he desired to take that opportunity of thanking the Solicitor-General for the most generous spirit in which he had met his views as embodied in the Amendments on the Paper.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) seconded.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 1, line 26, at end, to insert the words ' Notice of any proposed appointment of the public trustee either as a new or additional trustee shall be given to all persons beneficially interested who are resident in the United Kingdom and whose addresses are known to the persons proposing to made the appointment or applying to the Court for that purpose or if such beneficiaries are infants to their guardians.' "—(*Mr. Slack.*)

Question proposed. " That those words be there inserted."

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir EDWARD CARSON, Dublin University) said he should advise the House to accept the Amendment as reasonable, and, in thanking the hon. Member opposite for what he had said, acknowledged the ready manner in which he had met the endeavour of the promoters to preserve and carry out the objects of the Bill.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) supported the Amendment, though he did not understand the need of the words " where practicable." He thought those general words largely negatived the value of the Amendment. He should like to hear concrete cases to which they might apply. He took it that those words had been accepted by his hon. friend as some compromise, and in the interest of peace, but he was not bound by such an indefinite compromise, and he should like to know why the words were said to be necessary.

SIR ROBERT REID said that what was meant to be done by those words was to prevent the absence of them, in impracticable cases, from being a fatal objection. He regretted to hear that the hon. Member for South Islington was not a friend of peace.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: I repudiate that suggestion entirely. In other respects I support the Amendment, but I do not want a hollow peace with slanders of my hon. profession, which, as a whole and with comparatively few exceptions, is honourable.

SIR ROBERT REID said nobody knew better than he did the honourable way in which the duties of the legal profession were discharged in this country, but he thought there were cases also, as in every profession, of black sheep, and it was the duty of Parliament to do all that could be done to safeguard the public in those exceptional cases. What was meant to be done by these words was to prevent the absence of them, in impracticable cases, from being a fatal objection. It was impossible to specify all the possible contingencies which might happen.

MR. SLACK said his reason for accepting the words was that there might be a difficulty in ascertaining who were the persons beneficially interested.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.) asked what was to be the test of "where practicable." The expression was vague and its introduction in the clause might give rise to a great deal of litigation.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said he thought the words were necessary. If there was any technical difficulty in the way he would have the words recast.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) moved to insert the following sub-section: "If in the execution of any trust any discretion is vested in the public trustee the Court may, upon the application of any person interested under the instrument creating the trust or otherwise, direct in what manner such discretion shall be exercised." He said the Amendment had not been framed in any hostility to the Bill. The object of these words was to protect beneficiaries against official supineness. Where there was discretion given under a trust to, for instance, carry on a business or sell it, the public trustee, it was thought, would naturally be disposed to take that course which involved the least responsibility. The Amendment provided for beneficiaries, who were not satisfied with the course which the public trustee proposed to take, going before the Court and asking that the public trustee should be directed what he was to do.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 5, at the end, to insert the words, 'If in the execution of any trust any discretion is vested in the public trustee the Court may upon the application of any person interested under the instrument creating the trust or otherwise direct in what manner such discretion shall be exercised.'"—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR EDWARD CARSON hoped that the hon. Member would not press the Amendment. If it were carried it would render a great deal of litigation possible on small matters. The Bill already provided that, where discretion was vested by the settler or testator in any co-trustee of the public trustee the co-trustee should have the fullest power, altogether outside the opinion of the public trustee.

MR. BUTCHER (York) expressed the opinion that the terms of the Amendment were too wide, because it enabled a beneficiary in all matters connected with the disposal of an estate to go to Court and waste the trust funds in getting the opinion of the Court as to the discretion of the public trustee. There might be cases in which the public trustee ought not to exercise discretion, as, for instance, in the case of a testator making his will before this Act was passed and intending that a private trustee should deal with it. A business man might leave the carrying on of his business in the hands of trustees, and the exercise of their discretion in carrying on or disposing of the business would be a matter of vital moment to the trust estate. The testator would presume that the trustees or their successors would exercise their discretion properly, but under this Bill it might very well happen that the public trustee would be the sole trustee under that estate to exercise discretion.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said in that case any beneficiary would be entitled to bring the matter before the Court.

MR. BUTCHER thought he was right in saying that where the discretion was left to the trustee by the testator the Court would not interfere with the exercise of that discretion unless it was being exercised wrongly; therefore, the public trustee, being left the sole trustee, unless controlled in some way would be entitled to exercise discretion in an absolutely unfettered way. In matters of importance he thought it would be only right that a beneficiary should be able to go to Court and obtain control of the exercise of discretion by the public trustee. Such a provision was in his opinion necessary to carry out the wishes of a testator.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge) said it was no good saying that beneficiaries could apply to the Court to get certain things done. They all knew how short was the time taken in doing these things when they went into Court. He was strongly opposed to the matter being taken up by a public official. This question of the application of any person interested was a most important one, and he hoped the Amendment would be carried.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said that so far as the exercise of discretion was concerned the public trustee was not in the same position as a private trustee; he was not a relation or friend of the family concerned. A private trustee was. In the case which had been instanced, namely, that of carrying on a business or selling it, the public trustee would have no knowledge whatever of the business, and he was not the person who should determine a matter of that sort. The Solicitor-General had said that they could bring the matter before the Court, but he doubted whether they could do it in the sense suggested. Let them put aside the question of *mala fides*, and take the case where a testator had given discretion to carry on his business or not. Supposing the public trustee decided in a particular manner, whether to carry it on or not, the Court of Chancery would never interfere with the trustee under these conditions. They would say that the discretion had been vested in him, and that he had exercised it straightforwardly. Surely that was not a discretion which should be vested in the public trustee who had no special knowledge at all. He thought some Amendment in this direction should be introduced.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) said he considered there was a great difference between a private trustee and a public trustee in the matter of the exercise of discretion. A private trustee was selected by the testator because of his special knowledge of the question or business in which the testator was interested. Everybody knew that a member of the testator's family or the family solicitor was appointed trustee simply because of a knowledge he possessed of the testator's affairs, and, of course, if he had not had that special knowledge, or if he had not had a way of looking at things approved by the testator, he would not have been given that discretion by the testator. When they dealt with the public trustee, however, they found the case was quite different. A testator was not likely to give discretion in the disposal of his business to a public trustee who knew nothing about it. He did not want to stop the Bill, but looked with some suspicion upon the objection raised to protecting the testator's interests and the beneficiaries' interest by some such Amendment as this.

SIR ROBERT REID said he thought his hon. friend was in error in regard to the effect of the Bill. It should be remembered that when this Bill was passed into law no person would be prevented from appointing a private trustee to exercise his discretion just as could be done at the present moment. As to the exercise of discretion by the public trustee, he agreed with his hon. friend that it was better that some one familiar with the business should exercise discretion, but it might be that such a person was not available. The clause proposed that the discretion should be constantly subject to revision by a Judge. The *bona fide* exercise of discretion would not be disturbed by that supervision, but this Amendment, if inserted, would encourage constant applications to the Court by cantankerous and litigious people. The Solicitor-General had already said that he would consider whether any other form of words could be adopted.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said it was true that a testator might appoint a private trustee, but there were cases in which the public trustee might be or become the only trustee. Was he to be at liberty to exercise his discretion in matters with regard to which, as had been pointed out, the Court would not interfere under present conditions? He could not conceive anything more fatal to the interest of a trust estate than that such discretion should be left in the hands of the public trustee. What would happen in the case of a great commercial or shipping business? There might have to be applications to the Court perpetually. In the administration of such an estate, where the trustee was unfitted to exercise discretion, the parties must go to the Court, and make application to control and direct the trustee, whose judgment might be entirely wrong. He thought this Amendment was most called for and absolutely essential, and the alternative suggested by the Solicitor-General of a general administration of the Estate would paralyse a commercial business and dissipate the Estate in legal costs. This would be the effect of this Bill unless properly amended, and made practical and workable, failing which, like the Judicial Trustees Act, it would fail in its purpose and become a dead letter.

MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said he trusted the hon. Member would not press the Amendment. According to the present policy of the Court of Chancery they would not interfere with the exercise of the discretion of a private trustee unless it could be shown that it had been exercised wrongfully. He quite accepted that view, but the Court would have to deal, after this Bill became law, with an attempt to control the discretion of an official trustee. It was quite obvious that, when a learned Judge was invited to deal with the discretion of an official trustee, he would apply different considerations to the discretion of a public trustee than he would apply to the discretion of a private trustee. The private trustee had been given discretion by the testator or settler in accordance with the views he held of the judgment of the person in whom he reposed confidence. It was clear that no Court would interfere with the discretion of that person, and it was for that reason that the present policy had grown up which induced the Court to leave that discretion entirely unfettered, unless it could be shown that the trustee was influenced by some interested motive.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said it must be obvious that there was something to be provided for which was not in the Bill. There was an evil to be avoided at both ends. It might be that the refusal to act by a public trustee would be equal to the misguided action of a private trustee. On the other hand, they did not want a process of substituting the Court of Chancery for the public trustee. It had been suggested that application might be made to the Court that the public trustee, although acting *bona fide*, either by his proposed action or proposed refusal to act, was causing substantial detriment to the estate.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said that he would draft an Amendment to the effect that the proposed provision should apply in cases where, through the action or inaction of the trustee, the estate had suffered detriment.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR, on that promise, asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury) moved to omit Sub-section 3. He did so with the object of moving later on a new clause to provide that the Lord Chancellor should, with the concurrence of the Treasury, make rules for carrying into effect the objects of the Act. He believed that the Bill had been drafted at a period antecedent to the Publication of Rules Act. The object of the Amendment was to bring into one clause which was set down later, all the occasions on which rules were to be made by the Lord Chancellor.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 6, to leave out Sub-section 3."—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR EDWARD CARSON said he believed that the hon. Gentleman was quite right, and he accepted the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR moved the next Amendment standing in his name which was to the effect that the Act should not be made retrospective.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 12, at the end, to add the words, 'Provided that this section shall only apply to the will of a person dying, or to a settlement or other instrument executed after the passing of this Act.' "—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

"Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR EDWARD CARSON said that the Amendment was out of order, because they had already passed words that the Act should apply to wills or settlements made before the passing of the Act.

* MR. SPEAKER said that the Amendment was decidedly out of order.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 13, to leave out the words, 'general order' and insert the word 'rule.' "—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

Amendment agreed to.

SIR A. HELDER (Whitehaven) said that the object of the Amendment standing in his name was that if an application was made to appoint a public trustee on a will or settlement it was desirable that that should be restricted so that the consent of persons interested should be obtained before the application was granted.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 16, after the word 'administration,' to insert the words 'subject to the right of the next of kin or any person thereunto now by law entitled to a grant of administration.' "—(*Sir Augustus Helder.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR EDWARD CARSON said he had put down an Amendment for a subsequent stage that, "as between the public trustee and the widower, widow, or next of kin of the deceased, the widower, widow, or next of kin shall be preferred, unless for good cause shown to the contrary." That was giving the preference which the hon. Member desired.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 22, at the end, to insert the words 'and that as between the public trustee and the widower, widow, or next of kin of the deceased, the widower, widow, or next of kin shall be preferred, unless for good cause shown to the contrary.' "—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he wished to move to leave out of Clause 5 the words "fraud or negligence" for the purpose of substituting "act, or omission," as the ground on which liability would arise.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 5, to leave out the words 'fraud or negligence' and insert the words 'act or omission'—(*Mr. Charles McArthur*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR EDWARD CARSON said he wished to ask Mr. Speaker whether the Amendment did not go beyond the terms of the money Resolution, which provided such a sum as might be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the public trustee.

*MR. SPEAKER said that he must rule that "default" would cover "omission," but not "act."

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said that he would substitute the words "omission or default" for those he originally moved. He argued that where people were asked to depend on a public official they should feel that if, through any improper act of the official, loss was caused, the Consolidated Fund would make it good. Unless they gave that complete satisfaction, they would really give no satisfaction at all.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH (Bristol, W.) said he hoped that the question raised by the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman would be very carefully considered by the Solicitor-General before he agreed to it. He had grave doubts in his own mind as to the wisdom of the Bill at all. He did feel that although trusts and settlements were necessary in this country it was doubtful whether they were so much to the public advantage as to justify the State not merely in allowing them, but in setting up a public department to undertake their supervision. That principle, however, had been practically accepted, and he hoped His Majesty's Government would save the taxpayers from any loss except that which was incurred by some malfeasance on the part of the public trustee. If the measure was as largely availed of as its supporters seemed to anticipate, the burden imposed on the taxpayers might be very considerable if the possibility of imposing it extended beyond malfeasance. He therefore hoped that his right hon. and learned friend would resist this Amendment.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said that the words introduced in the Bill were those with reference to which the money Resolution was passed. These words had been very carefully considered, and it would be impossible to accept the Amendment without throwing an undue burden upon the taxpayers, and at the same time creating rights as against the public trustee which did not exist now in the case of any private trustee. What would be an omission? If a public trustee took money out of one security and put it into another security, although he was perfectly honest in so doing, would that be an "omission" and would the Consolidated Fund be liable? So long as the public trustee acted without fraud or negligence nobody could ask for more. He ventured to think that if they tried to extend these words they would raise an indefinite obligation on the Consolidated Fund, which it would be absolutely impossible for the Government to consider.

MR. SPEAKER said that, having had a little more time to consider the matter, he ruled that the House had no power to go beyond what the Committee had decided. The real authority to decide whether the words of the clause came within the phrase used in the money Resolution was the Committee, and the House had no power to extend the liability which the Committee had imposed. On that ground, he therefore ruled that the Amendment of the hon. Member was out of order.

MR. BUTCHER asked whether fraud or negligence meant a breach of trust. He ventured to think that a public trustee ought to be as much responsible for a breach of trust as a private trustee. He would move to omit the words "fraud or negligence" in order to insert the words "breach of trust."

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman comes within the ruling I have just given. I cannot say whether a breach of trust is greater or less than fraud or negligence.

MR. BUTCHER asked whether fraud or negligence included breach of trust.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said he was only a poor common-law lawyer; but the words "fraud and negligence" would be better understood than "breach of trust."

MR. BUTCHER said that in line 8 he wished to move an Amendment to leave out the words "Act or" for the purpose of getting an Answer to the Question he had already asked. It should be known whether the public trustee was or was not responsible for a breach of trust; and whether it would be possible to make a charge on the Treasury.

MR. CRIPPS said the matter mentioned was very important. He did not ask for any special words at the moment. When the Bill was introduced, it was understood that a poor man could not suffer through the public trustee, and that the Consolidated Fund would provide for anything in the nature of fraud. A breach of trust had nothing to do with fraud or negligence, and the question was what protection was to be given in the case of the public trustee.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words 'act or.'"

Question proposed, "That the words 'act of' stand part or the Bill."

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that under the Bill, if the clause were not amended, the *Cestui que* trust might be placed in a worse position than the ordinary beneficiary. The trustee might be accused of indiscretion, but the remedy would be at the cost of the estate. The cases in which there would be a remedy would, however, be limited to fraud or negligence. The hon. Member for York pressed the Solicitor-General to state whether the public trustee would be as liable as an ordinary trustee for breaches of trust. He would put a case which would not be covered by the words of the Bill. An investment, not in a trust security, might be made neither by fraud nor negligence, but might possibly lead to the loss of the estate, in which case the beneficiary would suffer. He invited a special Answer to his hon. friend's Question. Was there an indemnity on the part of the State in connection with the public trustee for breaches of trust? If not, the last state of the beneficiary might be worse than the first; he might be out of the frying-pan into the fire. And if the State had to pay the piper, the cost to the taxpayers of all this officialism, red tape, buildings, losses, etc., might be enormous, for no proportionate benefit. The Bill was a clumsy and badly drawn measure for its purpose, for to the principle of the proper protection of trust funds by a responsible custodian, whether public or private, he had no objection whatever, but the contrary.

SIR JAMES JOICEY said that it appeared quite evident when the Bill was introduced that the public trustee would take on himself all the responsibilities of an ordinary trustee. He was, however, rather suspicious at the refusal of the Government to assent to the words "breach of trust." He certainly thought the public trustee would be placed under the same conditions as an ordinary trustee; and the Solicitor-General should make the matter clear now. It seemed to him extraordinary that the Government should protect the public trustee from ordinary responsibility.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) said it was an extraordinary provision that the Courts should be given the power proposed.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND asked how the public would be benefited by the Bill if they received no security that the estate, when it came to the public trustee, would be properly administered. At the present time if a trustee got rid of the trust property he was liable to make it good, and had to pay it back, but as the Bill now stood if the public trustee did anything wrong, except they could prove *mala fides*, the public were worse off than before because he was not liable.

***MR. GEORGE FABER (York)** urged the House to be extremely careful to see that the remedy was not worse than the disease. The Lord Chancellor would have a free hand in the making of the rules, and upon that would depend the efficacy or otherwise of the enactment. The bait held out from the beginning was that they would get away from the fraudulent solicitor to some person of security, but apparently the condition of things would not be any better under this clause but rather worse, because under the present condition of the law a trustee was liable for breach of trust, but under this clause they would have a public trustee comfortably ensconsed behind a fat salary whom they would not be able to make responsible unless he was guilty of fraud or negligence. On the other hand, directly it was sought to make the public trustee liable for all breaches of trust the Treasury came forward and said they were putting a larger burden on the Consolidated Fund than they were entitled to do. He urged the Committee, in their desire to get out of the clutches of rogues, not to fall into the hands of fools; because, it was not unlikely that the person who would be appointed public trustee would not be a trained man of business, and would thus be incapable of discharging satisfactorily the great responsibilities of his position. Let them not, in avoiding Scylla, fall into Charybdis.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said it was wonderful how hon. Members imagined they were in a state of perfection as to the liability of trustees. Perhaps the most amusing part of the whole debate was the way in which they had been saying there was to be no security at all. They were only to have the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom to back up the public trustee whenever there was a case of fraud or negligence. Would his hon. friend tell him of any single case ordinarily arising in which money was lost which would not be covered by the words of the Bill? He could conceive no case among what might be called the ordinary cases which happened day by day which was not covered by the words "fraud and negligence." His hon. friend put the case of a trustee who had erred through ignorance, but who had acted throughout in a perfectly honest manner. His hon. friend, he thought, when he put the case must have forgotten the Act of Parliament passed in 1896 which provided, among other things, that where it appeared in a transaction which was alleged to be a breach of trust that the trustee had acted honestly and reasonably he might be excused that breach of trust. If the words proposed were put in here the public trustee would not have the benefit of the enactment covering the case when a trustee acted absolutely honestly. If you protected people against fraud and negligence you protected them against everything that was essential in the practical working of the Trustees Act. He was sure there was strong feeling in the country that this enactment was very much wanted, and he hoped the House would not be led away by any matters not of practical importance from the important issues before them in the short time at their disposal.

Mr. BUTCHER said he had no desire to waste time, and, although he did not regard the explanation as satisfactory, he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 12, to leave out Subsection (2).'"—(*Mr. H. D. Greene.*)

Amendment negatived.

Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR said the object of the Amendment he had now to propose was to safeguard the interest of the life tenant. He submitted that where the estate consisted of money in securities and it was simply a question of remitting the income to the beneficiary no charge should be made by the public trustee. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 21, at the end, to insert the words 'Provided that no fees shall be charged in respect of the income arising from the investments of any trust fund or trust estate which can be remitted under written directions from the person or company or corporation liable to pay the same direct to the usufructuary or to any person or persons or bank or to any other destination to or which he is authorised to direct the same to be paid, remitted, or sent.'"—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he hoped the Amendment would not be pressed. The fees must be collected by rule of the Treasury and no exceptions could be made. If they once began to make exceptions it would be impossible to carry out the object of the Bill. If the Bill was to work it would be necessary to make the fees as small as possible.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he did not quite follow the purpose of this Amendment, but the argument of the Solicitor-General was that the whole thing would be provided for by rules made by the Lord Chancellor. One of his great objections to this Bill was the large powers it gave to the Lord Chancellor, who was set up as a sort of autocrat and endowed with powers almost equalling those of a Secretary of State. A large proportion of those things which it was now proposed to leave to the Lord Chancellor to settle should in his opinion, be settled in the Bill itself.

Question put, and negatived.

Sir WILLIAM TOMLINSON said he moved the Amendment standing in his name because he thought in many cases in small trust estates there would have to be a preliminary investigation on the part of the public trustee to see whether the trust was such a trust as he could accept. If it was not such a trust, then, in his opinion, the public trustee should be entitled to a fee for the preliminary investigation,

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 24, after the first word 'paid' to insert the words 'including if required a preliminary fee for investigating the particulars of the trust or executorship proposed to be vested in the public trustee.'"—(*Sir William Tomlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR EDWARD CARSON said the rules under the Bill would lay down what the fees were which were to be charged and they would also point out what the duties of the trustee were. He hoped the Amendment would not be proceeded with.

Question put, and negatived.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said that the next Amendment was for the purpose of preventing any profit being made from the revenue out of the fees beyond what might be necessary to give the taxpayers indemnity against any loss.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 29, at the end, to insert the words '(4) The fees under this section shall be arranged from time to time so as to produce an annual amount sufficient to discharge the salaries and other expenses incidental to the working of this Act (including such sum as the Treasury may from time to time determine to be required to insure the Consolidated Fund against loss under this Act), and no more.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR JAMES JOICEY objected to the wording of the Amendment as vague. Supposing there were certain estates in the hands of the public trustee and there was a great loss in one of them owing to his fraud and negligence. Those who had other estates to put into his hands had to pay for that loss, although they had in no way contributed to it. He confessed he did not like giving all that power to the Lord Chancellor. The Lord Chancellor had immense power as it was, and it appeared to him that this would be a sort of second death duty for everybody whose estate came into the public trustee's hands.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) said he would like to know whether these new officials would be subject to any guarantee. Would they be guaranteed in any way up to a certain amount, the costs of the guarantees to be paid out of the Consolidated Fund? If not, he would suggest that that was a point which ought to be considered. He also drew attention to another point. He had known many cases where breaches of trust were quite distinct from any fraud or negligence, and he suggested that the Amendment would not enable the beneficiaries to get charged against that account anything excepting the losses arising from fraud and negligence, and therefore the beneficiaries were not protected against those breaches of trust which did not come under the phrase "fraud or negligence." Moreover the public trustee now to be appointed would have a multitude of small estates to deal with, and therefore the protection of the beneficiary would be a great deal less than it was at the present moment.

MR. STUART WORTLEY said that if the fees were to be applied to meet losses due to the negligence of the public trustee, the beneficiaries would be made to pay their own insurance, and the Treasury would lose all interest in looking after the property.

SIR ROBERT REID suggested the adoption of the procedure under the Registration of Titles Act in Australia.

*MR. GEORGE FABER pointed out that there were both cheap and safe ways of guarding the estates of testators, but he considered this neither safe nor economical. If the public trustee invested a large sum unwisely, the result might be a heavy loss. How was it to be made good? Under the procedure set up by this Amendment other estates would have to make the loss good. Why should B's estate pay for the loss on A's estate consequent on a bad investment by the public trustee? To his mind it was a case of "Thank you for nothing." His right hon. friend said "Do not employ the public trustee," but could the Solicitor-General assure him that when he was dead his estate might not by any possibility fall into the grasp of the gentleman appointed under this Bill?

SIR EDWARD CARSON: It would not, if you made proper provision for the appointment of other trustees.

*MR. GEORGE FABER said that in his opinion this Amendment involved putting on the estates of dead men an expense both unmerited and uncalled for.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) held that as the public trustee was to be appointed by the Lord Chancellor with the concurrence of the Treasury, the latter body ought to be held responsible for any *laches* on the part of the trustee; losses caused by either fraud or negligence on his part should be recouped out of the Consolidated Fund. The public trustee would be paid out of the fees levied on the estate administered.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT considered the suggestion a very reasonable one. He held that the proposal of the Government would make the administration of estates a very costly proceeding, seeing that beneficiaries would have to pay official fees not only for their own protection, but also for the protection of another estate in respect of which the public trustee might be liable. The principle of the Bill was not in question to-day, and their object was so to amend the Bill as to make it just and acceptable and so workable, and not like the Judicial Trustees Act, a nullity.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND said he did not see why the public trustee, who would be highly paid, should not pay his own fees for insurance.

COLONEL PILKINGTON though this Amendment was a trick. He had never heard of such a monstrous suggestion, and he suggested that it was due to the interference of the Treasury. He could not think such a proposal could have emanated from the Solicitor-General.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: It is not the Treasury who is responsible for it.

COLONEL PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) thought it was the first time a legal mind had ever framed such an extraordinary suggestion, and looking at it as a business man and not as a lawyer he honestly felt it would be much better to withdraw it.

*MR. EDMUND FABER (Hampshire, Andover) desired to know where the money was to come from if the public trustee was guilty of incompetence. In 99 cases out of 100 an estate suffered from the incompetence of the trustee and not from his fraud, and he ought to be made responsible if guilty of incompetence.

Question put.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT and Mr. CROOKS were appointed Tellers for the Ayes, but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes Mr. SPEAKER declared the Ayes had it.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, to leave out Clause 7."—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

SIR EDWARD CARSON moved in page 4, line 12, to add the words "but he shall not decline to accept any trust on the ground only of the small value of the trust property."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 12, at the end, to insert the words 'but he shall not decline to accept any trust on the ground only of the small value of the trust property.'"—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London) said the public trustee should be obliged to accept any trust that was brought before him, whether it was exactly what he desired or not. He did not think he should be allowed to refuse to act because a trust was not exactly to his liking.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said the clause as it originally stood in this

Bill gave the public trustee almost unlimited discretion to accept, or refuse to accept, any trust. The Amendment limited that discretion, but the limitation was not sufficient. For instance, the public trustee might decline to fulfil his duty because the property, although large in value, might be a troublesome one. If they were going to set up a great public department with an expensive officer for the purpose of taking over trust property, there ought to be no power to decline to undertake the duty for which the officer was established.

MR. GEORGE FABER entirely agreed with his hon. friend that the Amendment did not go far enough. He saw no logic in setting up a great department of State to which anybody was entitled to go unless the department was obliged to accept the trust.

SIR JAMES JOICEY urged that the public trustee should be compelled to accept any trust that was brought before him, and should not have the power to decline because, for instance, some investment was involved which might cause him considerable trouble.

MR. MARTIN (Worcestershire, Droitwich) held there should be no power to decline any trust.

SIR EDWARD CARSON said that would be impossible in view of the words already introduced. It would make the whole thing nonsense.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said this Amendment modified a most objectionable provision in the Bill to which, however, they had already assented. The Amendment had therefore better be made as reducing the evil.

SIR AUGUSTUS HELDER suggested that the words "or the difficulty of carrying out the trust" should be added to the Amendment.

*MR. SPEAKER said those words could be added after the Amendment had been carried.

*SIR EDWARD CARSON said cases must arise in which it would be impossible for the public trustee to act. Take, for instance, the Rhodes will. He could not administer such an estate as that. It was only to guard against cases of that kind that the clause had been inserted.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 180; Noes, 32. (Division List No. 253.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Baker, Joseph Allen
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Benn, John Williams
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (Glasgow)
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cheetham, John Frederick
Coddington, Sir William
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dickson, Charles Scott
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hammond, John
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.

Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Henry Staveley
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdona, John Cumming
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Kean, John
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murphy, John
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J.A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rickett, J Compton
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robinson, Brooke
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Maj J E B (Isle of Wight)
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C R (Northants)
Stanley, Edward Jas (Somerset
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Toulmin, George
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York. W. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.).
Wilson, J W (Worcestersh. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. Crooks.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baldwin, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Duke, Henry Edward
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Faber, George Denison (York
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, James Grimble
Helder, Augustus
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Lambert, George
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Spear, John Ward
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland and Sir Joseph Dimsdale.

And, it being after half-past Five of clock, Further Consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Monday next.

MEDICAL ACT (1886) AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

NEW BILL.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS (COMPENSATION).

Bill to make better provision for the Compensation of Rural District Councils in respect of loss occasioned by an alteration of the area or boundaries of their districts, ordered to be brought in by Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Yerburgh.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS (COMPENSATION) BILL.

"To make better provision for the Compensation of Rural District Councils in respect of loss occasioned by an alteration of the area or boundaries of their districts," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, 28th July, and to be printed. [Bill 263.]

TRADE MARKS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments from the Select Committee, with Special Report and Minutes of Evidence. Report and Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 231.]

Bill, as amended, recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House for Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 264.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Mr. Speaker's Retirement Bill; Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.

Amendments to—Hythe Corporation Bill [Lords]; Stepney Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers on the Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company. Rhymney and Aber Valleys Gas and Water Company Bill [Lords].

RHYMNEY AND ABER VALLEYS GAS AND WATER COMPANY BILL [LORDS]

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CXLVIII.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Advertisement Regulations [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Read 3^a and passed 4th July (926)
*Agricultural Rates Act 1896, etc., Continuance	*Lord Kenyon*	Read 2^a 6th July (1264) Committee / Report } 7th July (1455)
Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland)	*Lord Avebury*	Read 3^a and passed 29th June (506) Royal Assent 30th June (625)
Compensation for Damage to Crops		Read 1^a 7th July (1455)
*Consolidated Fund (No. 2)	*Marquess of Lansdowne*	All stages 7th July (1455)
Criminal Cases (Reservation of Points of Law) [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Report 29th June (521) Read 3^o and passed 30th June (638)
Early Closing (Shops) [H.L.]	*Lord Avebury*	Committee (defeated) 29th June (507)
*Finance	*Marquess of Lansdowne*	Read 2^a 26th June (31) Read 3^a 27th June (227) Royal Assent 30th June (625)
Merchant Shipping (Aliens) [H.L.]	*Lord Muskerry*	Second Reading (defeated) 26th June (11)
*Mr. Speaker's Retirement		Read 1^a 3rd July (704) Read 2^a 4th July (921) Read 3^a and passed 6th July (1264)
Public Meetings (Facilities) [H.L.]		Committee 29th June (480)
Shipowners' Negligence (Remedies)		Read 1^o 3rd July (704)
*Supreme Court of Judicature Ireland (No. 2) [H.L.]	*Lord Ashbourne*	Read 3^a and passed 4th July (925)
*War Stores Commission		Read 2^o 7th July (1460)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Aliens	*Mr. Akers-Douglas*	Committee 27th June (268) (345) Committee 28th June (390) (441) Committee 3rd July (794) (847)
*Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment [H.L.]	*Sir R. Finlay*	Read 1° 6th July (1350)
Canals (No. 2)	*Sir J. Brunner*	Read 1° 4th July (1000)
*Churches (Scotland)	*Mr. Scott Dickson*	2nd Reading 4th July (1003)
Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland)	*Mr. Nannetti*	Royal Assent 30th June (668)
Coal Mines (Weighing of Minerals)	*Mr. Compton Rickett*	Consideration as Amended Read 3° and passed } 7th July (1493)
Companies Acts Amendment (Dentists)	*Sir John Tuke*	Read 1° 26th June
Companies Acts Amendment (Physicians, etc.)	*Sir John Tuke*	Read 1° 26th June (106)
Compensation for Damage to Crops	*Mr. Mount*	Consideration as amended Read 3° and passed } 7th July (1478)
*Consolidated Fund (No. 2)	*Mr. Austen Chamberlain*	Committee Report } 3rd July 877 Read 3° and passed 6th July (1445)
*Criminal Cases (Reservation of Points of Law) [H.L.]	*Sir Robt. Finlay*	Read 1° 6th July (1349)
Drunkenness (Ireland)	*Mr. T. W. Russell*	Consideration as Amended Read 3° and passed } 7th July (1497)
Factory and Workshops Act (1901) Amendment	*Mr. C. Corbett*	Bill Withdrawn 6th July (1450)
*Finance	*Mr. Austen Chamberlain*	Royal Assent 39th June (668)
Medical Act (1886) Amendment	*Gen. Laurie*	Read 2° 7th July (1527)
Metropolitan Borough Councils Association	*Capt. Jessel*	Bill Withdrawn 27th June (352)
*Mr. Speaker's Retirement	*Mr. A. J. Balfour*	Read 2° 27th June (268) Read 3° and passed 3rd July (794)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Motor Car Act (1903) Amendment	*Mr. Soares*	Read 1° 28th June (385)
*Provisional Orders (Marriages)	*Mr. Cochrane*	Read 1° 27th June (268)
Public Road (Ireland)	*Mr. O'Dowd*	Committee 26th June (223) Report } 4th July Read 3° and passed } (1106)
Public Trustee and Executor	*Sir H. Vincent*	As Amended, Considered 30th June (657) As Amended, Considered 7th July (1505)
Rural District Councils Compensation)	*Sir E. Strachey*	Read 1° 7th July (1528)
Shipowners' Negligence (Remedies)	*Sir H. Samuel*	As Amended, Considered } 30th June Read 3° and passed } (646)
Sunday Trading (Scotland)	*Mr. C. Corbett*	Bill withdrawn 6th July (1449)
Valuation (Ireland) (No. 2)	*Mr. J. Devlin*	Read 1° 4th July (1000)
*War Stores (Commission)	*Sir R. Finlay*	Read 1° 28th June (385) Read 2° 30th June (700) Read 3° and passed 4th July (1103)

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1905.

List of Rules, Orders, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

In Continuation of List given in preceding Volume.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Balliol College, Oxford, on 23rd November, 1904, amending Statute IV. and Schedule B of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50].	26 June	12 weeks
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of University College, Oxford, on 11th March, 1905, amending the Ordinance regulating the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowships [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50].	26 June	12 weeks
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. XI. (Edinburgh, No. 4) (Institution of Degrees in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and relative Regulations) [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20].	29 June	12 weeks
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. XII. (Edinburgh, No. 5) (Inclusion of Geography among the subjects qualifying for Graduation in Arts) [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20].	29 June	12 weeks
Board of Education (Building Regulations),—Copy of the Building Regulations, being principles to be observed in planning and fitting up new buildings for Public Elementary Schools, together with Rules as to construction and certain requirements as to plans [30 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97].	7 July In Dummy	One month

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[AUTHORISED EDITION].

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Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

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